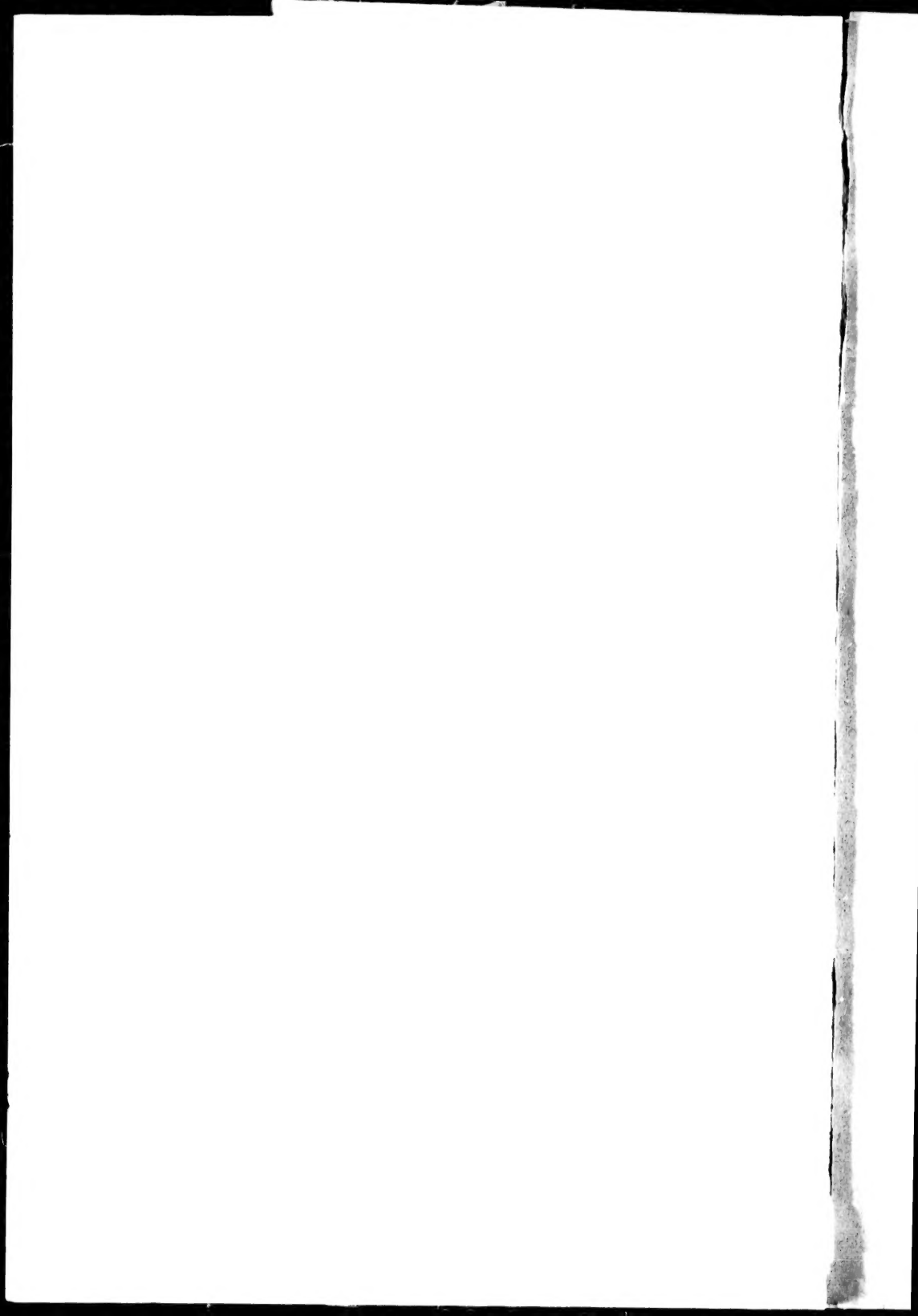




SPEECH

OF

HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON

ON THE

YUKON ADMINISTRATION

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA

30TH MARCH AND 4TH APRIL, 1899

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House of Commons Debates.

FOURTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH

OF

HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON, M.P.

ON

THE ADDRESS

OTTAWA, 30TH MARCH AND 4TH APRIL, 1899

THURSDAY, 30th March, 1899.

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). It is manifestly impossible for me to attempt any reply to the lengthy speech of hearsay, mingled with insinuations which the hon. gentleman from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has given; and it is necessary, therefore, to content myself to-night with moving the adjournment of the debate. However, before doing so I may make a remark or two. I understand that my hon. friend from Pictou is not going to be in the House when it reassembles. I may be permitted to express my regret that after the language that he has used in reference to myself this evening, he is not going to be present when parliamentary rules will permit me to reply to him.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman will postpone his reply, I will be back.

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will the hon. gentleman be here on Tuesday?

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No.

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot congratulate the hon. gentleman on the nature of the speech that he has made, when he was aware of the fact that he was not going to be here when a reply could be

made to him. That, however, does not particularly affect the merits of the case, although it may affect the esteem in which the hon. gentleman may be held by members of the House. I desire, further, to say, before moving the adjournment of the debate, that very much of what the hon. gentleman has insinuated, if not stated, I know to be false, I know it to be altogether unfounded. Many of the other things, of course, I have no personal knowledge of, though I shall deal with them to some extent when I have an opportunity of doing so. The insinuations which the hon. gentleman has interlarded throughout his speech, that there was some personal relation between myself and any impropriety of any official in the Yukon district, I characterize as absolutely and entirely and altogether untruthful. I give the hon. gentleman credit for having sense enough to know that they are untrue. I cannot imagine that the hon. gentleman who has been so long in public life, has not sense enough to know that a Minister of the Crown would not be improperly connected with any improper act of any officials in that distant country, if such improper act there was. He will find out before he gets through with this transaction that if he has believed what he has tried to lead this House to believe, and tried to lead this country to believe, if he has entertained that belief, he has been

an extremely silly and an extremely foolish man. Now, I only want to add this: We all know that the charges which have been made in regard to the officials of the Yukon district have appertained largely to the officials of the Gold Commissioner's office and to the Gold Commissioner. We know that the charge has been that the Gold Commissioner and his clerk, to use the language of the hon. gentleman, robbed the people who went into that country and attempted to carry on mining operations, that he was dishonest, and possibly guilty of malfeasance of office—that is to say, the Gold Commissioner and his clerk, as nobody else could do it because it was mining property with which they had to deal. Now, Mr. Speaker, as I am not prepared at this late hour to go into the subject fully, I desire to call the attention of the House to this fact, that in the despatches which are before us this evening in the evening papers we have a telegraphic report which comes direct from Dawson City in regard to the operations of the commission which was issued to Mr. Ogilvie for the purpose of investigating these charges, and before moving the adjournment, I will take the liberty of reading it.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Does the telegram come from Dawson direct?

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If the hon. gentleman were here on Tuesday, he would be still more restless before I get through. I desire to read this report, because it is evident that it was not the patriotic sentiments which the hon. gentleman expressed before he sat down, that induced him to make this statement immediately before Good Friday, deliberately talking 7 hours so as to prevent a reply being made. A child of ten years could see what the hon. gentleman was doing. He desires that his speech shall go to the country without contradiction and that it shall be left uncontradicted for several days. The best contradiction that could be given the wholesale statements of the hon. gentleman is this: We have a telegraphic report. As to whether this is true or not, an authentic report will come along in a short time, and then the hon. gentleman will know whether it is true or not, but I fancy it is. The report is as follows:—

The Royal Commission of Inquiry opened on February 22. Ample notice was given, but only two series of charges were preferred. The first was laid by the miners' committee appointed on August 25th. The second, that of malfeasance of office, was laid by the proprietors of the "Nugget" newspaper against Thomas Fawcett. Both parties requested permission to withdraw the charges on the second day. The alleged reason was that the terms of the commission limited the investigation to charges concerning acts previous to August 25. The complaint of the prosecutors was that the investigation was too narrow on that account. They were permitted to retire, but not to withdraw the charges. Commissioner Ogilvie continues the investigation.

Mr. Fawcett was cleared completely of the malfeasance charge. No clerk in the Gold Commissioner's Office thus far has been incriminated.

One witness testified that he was employed by the Young Conservative Association of Ottawa to gather information for political purposes. The commission continues in session.

TUESDAY, 4th April, 1899.

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton), (Brandon). It is not very often, Mr. Speaker, that there is a general consensus of opinion in Canada upon any one subject; but I think that prior to the time when the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made his address on last Thursday evening, there was a very general consensus of opinion throughout Canada that this debate had outlived its usefulness, and that it was time for the House of Commons to get down to business. But that hon. gentleman contrived to bring a subject into the debate and to deal with it in such a way that the continuance of the debate becomes a parliamentary necessity. The debate opened, Mr. Speaker, with a very long and very vigorous speech by the respected and experienced gentleman who leads the Opposition, and he was followed by the right hon. Prime Minister in a speech which I think both the right hon. gentleman's friends and his opponents will concede to be a speech which will live in the annals of parliamentary debate. It has been complained that the right hon. gentleman was too severe with the leader of the Opposition; but, Sir, when it is considered that for the last two years the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition has been going through the country denouncing the leader of the Government and his colleagues and all their actions in the most unmeasured way, and with the utmost freedom of language, I think the time had come for the right hon. leader of the Government to administer a rebuke to the hon. gentleman for the utterances which he had been making and which were shown to be altogether unfounded. And, Sir, I may say that when the right hon. gentleman was delivering his address, my sympathies were with him, and not with the leader of the Opposition; but since that time, while the debate has gone on, I must confess that my sympathies have been with the leader of the Opposition; because, Mr. Speaker, when it is remembered that that hon. gentleman has served his party well and faithfully for many long years, when it is remembered that whatever faults he may have had in public life, lack of loyalty or devotion to his party was not one of them, and when it is now seen that the hon. gentleman is castigated in this House by his political opponents, and day after day goes by, and not one man on the Opposition side of the House, not one of his followers, not the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), who sits beside him, will rise in his place to defend him, to say that he was right

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and that my right hon. friend was wrong, and that days afterwards it is to be left to the hon. gentleman's son to defend him, then I say my sympathies go out to the leader of the Opposition. It had to be left to the hon. gentleman's son to come to his rescue, and therefore I say my sympathy throughout is with the hon. leader of the Opposition. I would say to him, if he will not consider it impertinent, coming from one so much younger and with so much less experience, that he has my hearty sympathy and the sympathy of my colleagues and friends on this side in his unfortunate position. I might suggest to the loyal party—that is, the party which has had loyalty for its stock-in-trade for a great many years—that loyalty to their leader would not be altogether out of place, and that they would retain at least some of the esteem of their political opponents and of the people of the country if they presented, outwardly at least, better indications of loyalty and harmony in their own ranks.

The hon. leader of the Opposition, if I may be pardoned for saying a few words on this subject, with the skill which comes from long experience, attempted, and I suppose, perhaps, succeeded to some extent, in placing some utterances which I have made upon the tariff in an incorrect position. I do not wish to imply that the hon. gentleman in any way misrepresented what I said, in the sense of giving out as my utterances what I did not say; but with that skill which long parliamentary experience has given him, he adverted to my remarks in such a way that a casual reader would naturally imagine that I had placed myself in an illogical position. I wish for just a moment or two to say a few words on that subject. The House will recollect, Sir, that when we brought down our tariff to this House, hon. gentlemen on the front benches of the Opposition denounced it in unmeasured and most vigorous terms. There is no member of this House who will not remember how my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) stood up, and with that dramatic power which he has so successfully cultivated, held up his hand and called heaven to witness that he stood in this House as the champion of Canadian workmen, who, by this improvident and incompetent Government, were going to be turned out of house and home. That is the position he took. He lectured us for hours upon the utter destruction which this radical and revolutionary tariff was going to bring upon this country; and there was not one indication in the position he took, at least at that time, that he in any way approved of the tariff we submitted or of the lines of policy which we had indicated. That was the position of these hon. gentlemen then. But what is their position now? Why, Mr. Speaker, the tariff has gone into effect and has been shown to be a great success. And when I stand before this House, I am in the judgment of every

man who hears my voice and of the business men of this country, when I say that the sentiment of the people, the matured opinion of the people, is that the tariff has been a success.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Yes, and these hon. gentlemen have found that out. They have found out that their predictions have not been verified. What did they attempt to do when they were in office? For many years, the cry of high protection, extreme protection, more protection and more taxes, whenever anybody was in trouble, was the policy which these hon. gentlemen followed; but you will remember, Sir, that a few years ago the people began to cry out against that policy. Hon. gentlemen opposite found, when they summoned Parliament together, that they were getting letters from their followers and supporters saying that this policy of protection had gone too far. What was the result? It was that they were compelled to hold an inquiry upon the subject of that tariff and did hold a long and careful inquiry. If I recollect aright, the hon. ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace) and the late member for Brockville (Mr. Wood) were the two gentlemen who were sent around the country to make inquiries, and when these hon. gentlemen came back, the late Government brought down a tariff which, according to the despatches from Ottawa, given out by them was going to be reformed upon lines favourable to the consumer. That was the policy which the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) was forced to adopt by the attitude of his followers in Parliament and by the inquiries which the gentlemen associated with him in the Government had made. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) came down to Parliament with that policy. He was strong enough with the Government and the House of Commons to carry that policy, and I apprehend that he was even strong enough with the Senate to carry it, but he was not strong enough with the manufacturers, and the result was that he was forced in this House to modify it, item after item, until the mother of that tariff would not have known it at all as it went out of the House. His intentions were good certainly. He intended to revise the tariff upon lines favourable to the consumer, because that was the sentiment of the country, but he found he could not do it, and he failed to do it; and instead of coming down to the House and admitting his failure, he was forced to admit that the tariff he had brought down contained clerical errors. Explanations of that kind, Mr. Speaker, do not deceive anybody. We all make mistakes; we all start out to do things which we find we cannot do as we intended, and the hon. gentleman would have earned more the respect of the community if he had

said that the Government was not in a position to make the changes it contemplated. These hon. gentlemen know now that that was the real desire of the people in 1894, and they know that when we came into power, without being tied to the chariot wheels of any manufacturers, we did revise the tariff on those lines. For that, they denounced this Government in Parliament. They said that our tariff was not a success; but it has been a success, as they know. They know that the people have approved of that tariff, and they cannot take issue with us on that ground. What, then, did they do? They turned around and said that we did not change the tariff at all. But did they not know that when we laid it on the Table? I said at Perth—and that is what my hon. friend referred to, and what my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), whom I do not see present, found fault with—I said that the tariff as an issue between the two political parties had arrived at such a stage that it could not be longer considered, and never, in all probability, would be considered an issue in the same sense in which it had been an issue previously; and I said that because hon. gentlemen opposite know that our tariff—a tariff revised upon lines indicating that raw materials would be made more free, and that the consumer would be considered, but in which the reductions would be made in a careful and moderate way so as not to destroy any industry—is in accord with the policy which the people have approved of. They dare not go before the people and attack us on that ground. And, therefore, they intend to come here, and they intend to go before the people of this country to show what? Why, that they did not know what they were talking about when they denounced us, and that we actually have not changed the tariff at all.

Did I mean, Mr. Speaker, that this Government had abandoned the traditional policy of the Liberal party, that we did not intend, as the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson) well said, to attack the citadel of protection? Not at all. I meant that we intended to carry out the policy which we have laid before the people, and which, so far as we have gone, we have carried out carefully, consistently and as thoroughly as it was possible to do, in accordance with the well-understood wishes of the people of Canada, as they are understood by the hon. gentlemen sitting there, as well as by the hon. gentlemen sitting here, that the tariff of Canada should be dealt with upon lines more favourable to the consumer, more favourable to the extension of trade, and in the direction of removing all unjust restrictions from trade. That is the policy which this Government has laid down by the voice of its responsible Finance Minister.

Then, I pointed out also, and I take the liberty of pointing it out again, that there was another point upon which the tariff

might be regarded as not being an issue. We introduced a clause providing for giving a preference to Great Britain. That clause has been attacked in a great many ways. My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) attacked it the other day. The hon. gentleman will get his answer in due time from the Government benches; he will get it from the gentleman most competent to deal with the subject, and most familiar with the figures, and that answer, I apprehend, will be satisfactory to the people of this country and to the followers of the Government. But what I was pointing out was that we had introduced a clause in the tariff providing for preference to Great Britain. That clause has been denounced by hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, are they sincere in that denunciation? I do not mean to transgress parliamentary rules by attacking the sincerity of any hon. gentleman in this House; but I think I may attack the sincerity of a party as a whole. Is the Conservative party at this moment sincere or insincere in attacking and denouncing the preferential clause of our tariff? It is an easy matter to settle that. If they were in power to-morrow, would they repeal the preferential clause? That is a simple question. I appeal to the sentiment of every man in this House, when I make this statement, that, notwithstanding all the denunciations of the hon. gentlemen opposite, if they were placed upon the Treasury benches to-morrow with a majority of four to one in this House, they would not, and they could not, repeal that clause. They could not get a House of Commons elected in Canada pledged to, or known to be in favour of repealing that clause. Then, I think, Mr. Speaker, if we have so fully, and so fairly, and so accurately, gauged public opinion upon that important phase of the tariff question as to put upon the Statute-books a provision that no political party in this country would repeal, we may regard that phase of the tariff question as being settled.

I thought that I might trespass upon the attention of the House to set myself right, in view of the remarks which the hon. leader of the Opposition made with the very laudable, and, in political warfare, very proper, intention of creating dissension in our ranks.

My principal occasion for rising to address the House this afternoon is the speech that was made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) on Thursday evening. I need only refer to the fact that that speech was made in such a way—saying nothing further about it—as to consume an unnecessary length of time. I do not think that anybody who listened to the hon. gentleman, would have imagined that he was trying to get through what he had to say in the least possible time. The hon. gentleman laid himself open to the suspicion that, knowing, as he did, that the House was going to adjourn at twelve o'clock, and that there were to be four or five days in

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which there was to be no debate in this House, his purpose was to prevent any reply being made on this side of the House for some days at least. It was known also, that he would not be here to hear the reply. Now, it must be admitted that the family to which the hon. gentleman belongs, has not had the reputation of lacking courage, and, possibly, there may be some other explanation of the hon. gentleman's course in taking that particular time to make his address. He is not here, unfortunately. But I think I am right in saying, that the fact of his not being here makes no difference to the Government, and that the importance of the question demands that, whether he is here or absent, the matter should be discussed, and discussed now.

It was well known some time ago, that the hon. gentleman would make an address on this question. It has been whispered in the corridors, talked about in the hotel rotundas, and even hinted in the newspapers. It was known also, practically known beyond dispute, that the great Conservative party had been employing detectives, sending them up to Dawson City—lawyer-detectives, I believe, two or three of them—to collect information for the purpose, if possible, of damaging this Government in the eyes of the public. And, after all that had been said, and the anticipations that were raised, I, at least, thought that the hon. gentleman, if he did not have any evidence, would have something that a lawyer might be excused for thinking was evidence, or, at least, taking as evidence. But I venture to say that nobody on either side of the House who heard the hon. gentleman's address would dignify anything he gave us with the name of evidence. It is the privilege of a member of Parliament, Sir, to listen to what an individual may say about anybody connected with public affairs. It is his privilege to come into the House of Commons, on a proper occasion permitted by parliamentary practice to rise in his place, and to tell the House what he has learned, without giving the name of the individual who had told him, without giving the House an opportunity to judge of the credibility of the individual, or what opportunity that individual had had of knowing what he was talking about. That is a privilege that is conferred, presumably, and I think necessarily, for the public good. But it is a privilege that is supposed to be exercised by the men upon whom it is conferred, with judgment, and with discretion, and with care, so that no man may be unduly scandalized and no man's reputation may be unduly imperilled by any anonymous accusation. I say nothing further than this, that I will leave it to this House, to the members who heard the address, or who have read—well, not all that the hon. gentleman said, for no gentleman in the press gallery, so far as I am aware, was courageous enough, or indiscreet enough, to take down the language of the hon. gentle-

man in everything he said—to the members of the House who know what he said, whether the hon. member for Pictou, a gentleman who was for years a Privy Councillor, who occupied the exalted position of Minister of Justice, has used the high privilege conferred upon him, as a member of this House, with judgment and discretion.

Now, Sir, I am not going to follow the hon. gentleman in the nature of the remarks which he has made; I am not going to denounce, or to insinuate, or to do anything of that kind; neither am I going to attack the hon. gentleman. I am going to recognize, as a responsible member of this Government, responsible to Her Majesty, responsible to my leader, responsible to this House of Commons, to Parliament and to the people—I am going to recognize the fact that a member of Parliament has made a speech attacking the administration of this Government and the administration of the department of which I have charge. I am not going to inquire particularly as to whether the member of Parliament who did that did it in a fair way, a reasonable way, or a decent way; but I am going to put the Government and myself in the judgment of this House and of the people of Canada as to whether we have fairly and honestly discharged our duties. The question is not whether the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been discreet, or whether he has been justified in doing what he has done; the question is whether this Government has properly discharged its duty. Now, Sir, we are responsible for our mining policy in the Yukon district, we are responsible for our administration of that policy, for our administration of the affairs of that territory. Just here I want to say that I do not propose, in this address, to deal with the question of royalties or the question of the reservation of claims in connection with the mining regulations in that territory. Those are large and important questions of public policy which may well form themselves the subject of a debate, and upon which the members of this Government will be well prepared to meet our hon. friends at any time when they seek to challenge the judgment of this House. But there are other matters, details of administration which the hon. member for Pictou has brought before this House, and which now demand the special attention of the Government; but I am not going to devote, on this occasion, any time to the discussion of our policy in relation to those matters which I have referred to. We are responsible for our administration, we are responsible for exercising reasonable judgment, reasonable promptness, reasonable diligence, reasonable discretion, in anything and everything that we did. And let me say right here, that I am not going to follow a policy which has been suggested many times in the press of this country within the last two weeks; in dealing with these matters I am not going to try to justify this Government by making

a comparison with the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite; I am not going to defend myself, or the action of my colleagues in endorsing what I have done, by arguments based upon recrimination. It is perfectly true that if two vices made a virtue, it would be very easy to do it; it is perfectly true that the hon. gentleman who made this attack upon the Government sat as a colleague of a Minister who was proven to have received large bribes; it is perfectly true that it has been proven that a large sum of public money was stolen or lost under the eyes of one of his colleagues, an ex-Minister of Railways; it is perfectly true, Sir, that scandals, gross scandals, disgraced the administration of the western country; that as peaceable a population as ever lived in Canada, upon the banks of the Saskatchewan, were driven into rebellion by the maladministration of hon. gentlemen opposite. That rebellion cost millions of dollars to put down; it cost valuable lives to put down; and, Sir, it is true, and hon. gentlemen cannot deny it, that the officers that were sent up there looted and stole from the people whom they were sent up there to protect. It is perfectly true that the settlement policy, the general administration of that western country where I have lived for the last 20 years, was described, not by a Reform paper, not by a Liberal paper, but by the leading journal of the Conservative party in the city of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg "Times"—was described in a moment of desperation at the actions of the hon. gentlemen opposite, as crass and incomprehensible from beginning to end; and it was stated in that paper, not a Liberal paper, but an organ of the hon. gentlemen, that as a result of their maladministration the trails from Manitoba to Dakota were beaten bare and brown with the wagon wheels of departing settlers. Sir, that is not my language, it is the language of the hon. gentlemen's organ, which declared that by their maladministration they had driven from the North-west—that great country—the magnificent tide of immigration which was flowing into it at that time, and which only needed to have been fostered and cared for to have filled up those western prairies. And that emigration never returned, or at least has only begun in a small degree to return since this Government attained to power. Sir, I do not mention these things for the purpose of justifying anything that I have done, or anything that my colleagues have done. If we could only justify our administration by a comparison with hon. gentlemen opposite, for my part I would be prepared to resign, and I do not think my right hon. friend the leader of the Government would care to remain in office if his Ministers had to defend themselves by comparing their records with those of hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, Sir, I am going to give you as well as I can—and I must apologize for being necessarily somewhat tedious—the facts relating to the administration

of the Yukon district so far as I am able to place them before Parliament. I am not going to claim that this Government is perfect, or that I am perfect. I am not going to claim that I did not forget anything; that every letter was despatched just at the moment it would have been well to have despatched it; that I thought of everything that was going to happen and provided against it; that I had the quality of omniscience, or the ability to see far over the Rocky Mountains from here to Dawson City, to probe the hearts of the men who were sitting in offices there, and to see, not only what they were doing, but to see their motives and what they were thinking about. I am not going even to say that we did not possibly forget some things that might have been provided for—that may be true. But I am going to say that we have exercised care, forethought, diligence, promptness and circumspection from beginning to end, in every possible respect. This statement I make to the members of this House, and when I sit down they will be able to judge whether I have proved my case or not.

Sir, to begin at the beginning, in December, 1896, I took office. I did not get settled to work in my department, practically, until the opening days of 1897. Early in that year, my attention was called to the necessities of the Yukon district. The Yukon was an unknown land at that time, nobody knew anything about it—nobody at least, except, perhaps, Mr. Ogilvie and the officers of the Government who were there. My attention was called—and I want to get this fairly before the House—to several reports or letters which had come to the Surveyor General from Mr. Ogilvie. They were not—and I have reasons for calling the special attention of the House to this fact—they were not the reports that were subsequently printed, although the reports that were subsequently printed included them. The bulk of the reports, which hon. gentlemen will remember as having been printed just after the session of 1897, were not received until the session got fairly on into June, to the best of my recollection; but before that, some letters which I think were printed with those reports had been received. On 5th March, 1897, which would be a couple of months after I had got to work in my office, the Surveyor General, Captain Deville, called my attention to the fact that Mr. Ogilvie had made a report, and the Surveyor General further called my attention to the fact that the Yukon territory had been neglected and had not received the attention that ought to have been given to it. He wrote to me as follows—but, mark you, Mr. Speaker, there was no information in the hands of this Government or in the hands of anybody which would justify the idea that there was going to be anything like an inrush of population. Though the idea of people going into the country was spoken of, it was only spoken of in the sense of a

few hundred miners crossing the boundary from Alaska. The Surveyor General, on the 5th of March, 1897, a couple of months after I took office, wrote to me a letter. I will call your attention to the fact that this letter was from an experienced, capable and reliable officer of the Government, not appointed by me, but appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I am glad to say further that the appointment was an excellent one and one which I regard as being satisfactory in every way; a better officer I do not believe any Government could have. He wrote to me on March 5th, 1897, as follows:

A perusal of Mr. Ogilvie's report leaves the impression that if prompt steps are not taken for placing the land and mining business of the district under efficient management, it will soon be in an undesirable condition. Mr. Ogilvie's view is that the surveyor of the district should have charge of the business: his arguments appear irrefutable. The present agent—

That was Capt. Constantine.

—himself admits that he cannot fulfil the duties of the office, and asks to be relieved. Should Mr. Ogilvie's view be adopted, no one is better fitted for the position than Mr. Thomas Fawcett; he is not only a skilled surveyor and a man of great tact, judgment and experience, but he is very fortunate in always maintaining pleasant relations with everybody. In a remote place like the Yukon district, where much must be left to the agent, suavity of manner and a conciliatory spirit are perhaps the most essential qualities.

Mr. Thomas Fawcett was employed in a temporary way on Government surveys from 1874 to 1892. The surveyors were nearly all employed in a temporary way; there are only a few that are permanent officers. I say that simply to indicate that Mr. Fawcett was to all intents and purposes a Government surveyor, although he had only been in the employ of the Government from time to time. In 1892 Mr. Fawcett was permanently appointed in the Surveyor General's branch of the department. He had passed the examination necessary to such appointment and the record of his temporary service was good. In consequence of the report of the Surveyor General made to me on 5th of March, 1897, and followed by another letter on 12th April, I caused Mr. Fawcett to be appointed, and he was sent out in time to get to the Yukon district by the first opening of the water on the Yukon River. There was no delay: he got there just as soon as it was possible for him to have got there.

Now, the members of the House understand and know that I have been accused by the Conservative press throughout this country of finding Mr. Ogilvie in charge of the Yukon district and of removing him. Members of the House know, if they have read the Opposition press, that it has been charged that I found Mr. Ogilvie in charge of the Yukon district, he having been appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite and put in charge of that district, and that I removed him. Mr. Ogilvie never was in charge of

the Yukon district, and under the hon. gentlemen opposite he never had anything to do with it. They never recognized Mr. Ogilvie in connection with the Yukon district. They never paid any attention to him, and they never read his reports. Mr. Ogilvie was sent out there as topographical surveyor in connection with the boundary survey and he had no connection with the Yukon district. It was only the ability, fairness and dignity of character of Mr. Ogilvie that caused him to be recognized by the people there as a man to whom they could go and refer any causes of dispute. The other officer in charge of the district was Capt. Constantine, and Capt. Constantine asked to be relieved. Hon. gentlemen may ask: Why did you not appoint Mr. Ogilvie in his place? The answer is that Mr. Ogilvie asked to be allowed to come back on account of ill-health, and he came back on account of ill-health. Now, to dispose of this charge, which is one of a number, I have pointed out that there is nothing whatever in the story that I removed Mr. Ogilvie from his position; I have pointed out that he never had the position in fact, and that he came back at his own request on account of failing health. When I appointed as Gold Commissioner a surveyor. Why? Because Mr. Ogilvie, who was competent to advise the department, suggested the appointment of a surveyor; and because that suggestion was strongly supported by the Surveyor General who advised that Mr. Thomas Fawcett, a surveyor of his staff, was the sort of man that was wanted. I called upon the Surveyor General of Canada for advice, and on the recommendation of the Surveyor General of Canada I had a surveyor of his own appointed as Gold Commissioner.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they say I made mining regulations under which the records were secret. I say that I did nothing of the kind. The Mining regulations in force when Mr. Fawcett went out were the mining regulations promulgated by hon. gentlemen opposite—without change. Who made these regulations? The hon. gentlemen opposite appointed Mr. Pierce, an experienced surveyor, an able man, as able a man in his own line as there is in Canada, to prepare a set of mining regulations. Mr. Pierce was appointed Superintendent of Mines, and it was under the regulations made by him that Mr. Fawcett went to the Yukon district. There were only the slightest changes of form, and nothing as far as administration was concerned. If any change was made it was upon the recommendation of Mr. Ogilvie in regard to certain matters of detail, so as to adapt these regulations to the Yukon district, because the regulations as originally made were adapted to the requirements and conditions of the North-west Territories. In regard to the secrecy of records, whatever the practice was under the late Government, the practice was when Mr. Fawcett went out. Hon. gentlemen will remember that when he

left here after the session of 1897, after this House closed, there was no information in the possession of the House which justified the Government in assuming that what was said might happen, would in reality happen. There was some information in the hands of the House and some in my hands. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition undertook last session to show me that we did not have sufficient information, and he took up Mr. Ogilvie's report, which was in my hands when the House prorogued, saying there was going to be, in all probability, an influx of population into this district. I would point out to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), that neither he nor any member of this House can read that report and say that the meaning of it is other than simply this: That Mr. Ogilvie thought there would be an influx of a few hundred miners from the Alaskan side of the boundary. Well, that did not call for any enormous activity on the part of the Government; it did not call for anything I had not done long before in sending Mr. Fawcett and staff to the Yukon district. But immediately afterwards events began to thicken, and it became evident that something more had to be done. My right hon. friend the leader of the Government was in England, and other members of the Government were away, some of them attending the Queen's Jubilee. Other members of the Government were here, including the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who gave the matter careful attention. And I wish to say here, that I have been most indebted to that hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright), in connection with all matters relating to the Yukon, with reference to which I wanted to apply for advice to one of more experience than myself. The Minister of Trade and Commerce was here, we held various council meetings, and we discussed the matter. In the first place, we ordered up an additional number of Mounted Police. We sent the assistant commissioner of the Mounted Police. We did not want the job for a Grit; we might have done that; I am not sure the hon. gentlemen opposite would not have sent one of their political friends had they been in my place; but we sent the assistant commissioner of the Mounted Police as being the proper man for the purpose, and we sent him upon the recommendation of the Controller of the Mounted Police. We sent him to Skagway to forward supplies over the pass. Then, as the season proceeded the idea forced itself upon our minds that there was going to be a greater rush of people than we at first anticipated. We held council meetings, we discussed the matter fully, and the judgment of the members of the Government who were here was that the proper course for us to pursue was to appoint what might be called an emergency staff of officers, that they might go up there, that they might meet the immediate re-

quirements of the situation in the following summer (that would be last summer), and report to us what was necessary in connection with the permanent organization of the district. That was the judgment of the members of the Government at that time, and we followed that plan. Let me say, Sir, it is easy to be wise; it is easy to say what you would not have done if you had known beforehand something you did not know—if we knew what the price of wheat was going to be a month from now we might all be millionaires—but we do not know, and so we have to depend on our judgment as to what is going to happen. When we held these council meetings we knew hardly anything about the Yukon district except what was contained in Mr. Ogilvie's report. This report gave a lot of general information, but immediately a man begins to administer, immediately a man begins to decide, he says: What about this, what about that, what about the other thing. We had nobody to tell us, there was not a man in Canada that knew anything about it; there was not an officer in the Mounted Police who had ever been there. Mr. Ogilvie was at Dawson city under permission to come out—either in Dawson City or on his way out—and we did not have any information whatever, except, as I said, what was contained in that report. It was valuable so far as it went, but there were an enormous number of things that we wanted to know and that we did not know, and that we could not get any information about.

Well, we appointed this staff of officers, and I want to call the attention of the House to the fact that when we took these steps we were generally commended by, not only our friends in the country, and not only our own press, but the press on the other side of politics. Everybody commended the promptness of the steps we had taken to cope with the situation. There were two things to which our attention was specially directed; one was the question of food. Everybody knows here that there was the most dire alarm as to what was going to happen in that district during the winter. Every one knows that there was the greatest apprehension. Why, Sir, I received telegrams from clergymen, telegrams and letters from people all over the country, privately urging me to be sure to leave no stone unturned to prevent anything in the nature of famine or distress in that country. People wrote to me who had relatives, or thought they had relatives in that district, and that was one of the matters to which the attention of the Government was directed.

Again, there was another matter which we had to consider. The population that was going in there was supposed to be a lawless population. It was known to be composed in the proportion of 91 per cent of foreigners, largely of Americans from the Pacific slope, not the class of men who are

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the most readily amenable to the law or to the restraints of a regularly organized system of government. American newspapers upon the Pacific coast did not hesitate to say that if the Canadian Government undertook to trifle with these men they would run the Canadians out of the country, they would put up the American flag, and we would never see any part of that country again. Well, these statements, of course, were not to be taken too seriously, but hon. gentlemen who know something about the temper of the western miner on the Pacific slope, would do well not to neglect them too much, because things happen sometimes in very short order with gentlemen of that class. We had to consider these things when we appointed our officers, and therefore we appointed officers in consideration of all the circumstances, and in view of the possibilities with which they would have to cope. If there had been no danger of starvation, if there had been no danger of riot, if there had been an express train running a Pullman car to Dawson City, then I think the chances are that instead of the gentlemen I sent I would have got some men with other characteristics, with special knowledge of keeping mining records, and with special knowledge of mining law. My attention would doubtless have been directed to that, and I would have endeavoured to get men whose knowledge was complete on this subject, even if they did not know anything at all about anything else. But, Sir, those were not the men to do the work we had to do in the fall of 1897.

Now, who did we appoint? As the administrator of that country we appointed Major James M. Walsh. James Morrow Walsh first entered the service of the Government on the 25th of September, 1873, when he was appointed Inspector of the North-west Mounted Police. He was promoted to be superintendent on the 1st June, 1874—Superintendent in the Mounted Police is about the same rank as major in the militia. He served on the march of the police from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains in 1874, and afterwards at McLeod, Fort Walsh, Wood Mountain and Qu'Appelle. He retired on the 1st of September, 1883, and was granted a gratuity. He left a record of difficult duty well done. On it being rumoured that Major Walsh was to be appointed to the Yukon, the "Mail and Empire" in an article on the 10th August, 1897, said—would hon. gentlemen opposite please take a note of this—the "Mail and Empire" said:

If Major Walsh of Brockville should be appointed administrator as it is rumoured he will be, we may be assured that that capable and experienced officer will show himself the right man for the position.

The Ottawa "Citizen" said—hon. gentlemen opposite will see I am not quoting from Grit papers—the Ottawa "Citizen" of 1st September, 1897, remarked:

American papers are full of the praises of Mr. Ogilvie, the Dominion surveyor in the Yukon district, and of Major Walsh, who is to administer the country. These men are signal examples of a devotion to duty such as Nelson would have admired, and the English people have always been proud of, but they are not exceptional. We have many such men in Canada.

Then, I will quote the "Nor'-Wester," which is the Conservative organ in the city of Winnipeg. This is the newspaper which seems to have regarded it as its special mission to camp on my trail ever since I have been in public life. On the 12th of August, 1897, it remarked of the appointment of Major Walsh, that "there would be no one disposed to quarrel with it," and characterized Major Walsh as "a man of western experience and sound sense." Therefore, when I appointed Major Walsh I appointed a man certified by the general knowledge of the people of Canada for the magnificent record which he had in the public service, and certified specially and particularly by our most rabid political opponents, to be the best man in Canada for the position.

Now as to Mr. Wade. It was necessary to have a lawyer to do legal work. It has been complained that Mr. Wade had too many positions. Well, we did not know what work was to be done up there, or how matters were going to develop, and we did not want to send half a dozen men up to do what would be perhaps one man's work. It was an emergency staff, appointed, as I have said, for the purpose of taking hold of matters as they might develop, and to be supplanted by a permanent staff when the development of the country indicated that such would be required. Now, it has been said that Mr. Wade was a dreadful man. The hon. member for Pictou waxed very eloquent—well, I could not call it eloquent, but he waxed very luxuriant in his language, to use no stronger term, with regard to Mr. Wade. Now, it is generally regarded in law as most conclusive when you can prove your case by your opponent's witness. The hon. member for Pictou has a brother whose name is Mr. William J. Tupper. He is, I think, the youngest son of the hon. leader of the Opposition. He differs from the hon. leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Pictou in being acquainted with Mr. Wade; he knows something about him; he has been acquainted with him for years; and, if it is any satisfaction to my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, I have no objection to saying to him that Mr. William J. Tupper is a gentleman who is well respected in Winnipeg, and whose opinion is regarded as being of some value. At any rate, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition cannot find fault with him, neither can the hon. member for Pictou, his brother. Well, when Mr. Wade was appointed, Mr. Wade was attacked—I am not going to say why—by a gentleman in his own party. I am not going to bring

other names into the discussion, because that has nothing to do with what I am discussing now. The explanation of the attack was that the dispute was of a personal character, and what I am now giving is the opinion of Mr. William J. Tupper of Mr. Wade. In regard to the attack, Mr. William J. Tupper wrote a letter to the editor of the "Nor'-Wester," the Conservative organ in the city of Winnipeg, in which he said:

It is nauseating to witness the attempt of the "Tribune" to belittle Mr. Wade's attainments.

He said that "Mr. Wade had made a reputation as a brilliant editorial writer," and that "his success in his profession"—that is, the legal profession—"is so well known that it cannot be questioned." I am not quoting this letter verbatim, because there are references in it to a member of the House which I do not wish to bring before the House; but if any gentlemen wishes to read the whole of the letter, it is on file among the papers. I am giving the effect of the letter in regard to the character and qualifications of Mr. Wade; that is the point I am talking about. Mr. William J. Tupper further said:

He has evidently aroused the animosity of one of his party.—

Remark this in comparison with what is said by the hon. member for Pictou, who does not know anything about Mr. Wade:—

—but I believe political opponents will testify that he would scorn to do a mean action, even in the heat of battle.

He says further:

I believe the almost unanimous opinion in this province is that Mr. Wade deserves the best consideration at the hands of his party.

Now, that is the gentleman I appointed as the legal officer of the party who went up to take charge of the administration, as I have said, in an emergency way, simply. I have never heard anybody question Mr. Wade's ability; so I will not devote any attention to that.

Another gentleman whom I sent with this party was Capt. Bliss. Capt. Bliss is one of the horde of political parasites whom, it appears, I turned loose on the country. Captain Bliss was an officer of the Privy Council of some years standing; I do not know the number of years; I have not taken the trouble to get his record. When my hon. friend the Prime Minister took charge of the Privy Council branch, he reorganized that department, and Captain Bliss's services were dispensed with. At the strong request of a number of gentlemen, largely Conservatives, in the city of Ottawa, I found a place for Captain Bliss in my department. He is a Conservative in politics, and always has been, so far as I know. As an officer he had a good record in the Government service; he was found in the Government service when we came here. Captain Bliss was sent up with the party, and with

him I sent as assistants two men who were designated as inspectors of mines—James D. McGregor, of Brandon, and Captain Norwood, who comes from somewhere in Nova Scotia. Mr. McGregor I knew myself. He has been denounced in this House in a way I need not refer to now. He was appointed on my own judgment, as a man who lived for many years in the same town that I lived in, and he is a respected citizen of that town, and any person who knew anything about his character and habits of life, would know that a man like him, who had lived in the western country, who had travelled all over it for many years, who had met all classes of people, and who was a shrewd, capable, resolute man, was exactly the kind of man to send with the party to the Yukon. On the recommendation of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), Captain Norwood was sent too. He was a man who had been the captain of a northern whaler, had wintered in the northern portion of the Yukon district, knew considerable about the nature and climate of the country, and was familiar with travelling in far northern latitudes. These men were going with the possibility of having to incur great hardships and to meet exceptional difficulties.

These two men I have mentioned were sent particularly on account of their physical qualifications, their experience in rough travelling, and their ability to meet and deal with all the difficulties they would have to deal with in the Yukon district. Their particular duty was to look after the collection of royalty. Hon. gentlemen opposite and their friends said that we never could collect that royalty. I do not know whether they said so in Parliament or not, but their organ certainly declared that we could not get enough policemen and soldiers in Canada to collect that royalty. I know that, when dealing with a rough and ready man, such as a miner, a great deal depends on how he is handled; and if you send people to deal with such men who do not know how to go about the work, you will get into serious trouble. I, therefore, sent men who had the necessary experience and qualifications to deal with this class, and, without a single dispute that I have heard of, they did collect the royalty provided by law and lodged it in the treasury office. These two gentlemen were Liberals, but I do not think they were any the worse for that. I have given you the certificate of character with regard to Major Walsh's appointment, and a certificate from my hon. friend's youngest son with regard to Mr. Wade's character. I have also shown you that Captain Bliss was not an appointee of this Government at all, but a departmental officer, sent on account of two qualifications. He was familiar with the accountant work in my department, and so could keep the accounts, and, in addition to that, he was a military man, and had, therefore, a knowledge of the transportation and handling of men, and would be much

who were James D. Main Nor in Nova self. He in a way appointed who lived in that I on of that anything fe, would had lived travelled and met all a shrewd. y the kind ne Yukon. on. friend ence (Mr. sent too, captain of ed in the ict, knew and climate with tra- s. These ty of hav- to meet ex-

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more useful, in case of difficulty, than would be an ordinary clerk. These were the reasons why these men were sent, and I am in the judgment of the House as to whether they were not good. The others I do not remember, who went up in connection with the party, but they were simply subordinates.

When the party got to Skagway, it was found that the assistant commissioner of Mounted Police had not got his supplies across. I have been asked, why Major Walsh did not get through by water to Dawson City. I have just given the reason. If the assistant commissioner of Mounted Police had got his supplies across in time—even in five times as long as it took Major Walsh and myself to put them across when we were there—Major Walsh and his party would have gone on to Dawson City before the water froze. But the assistant commissioner had not got his supplies across, and it would have been madness to send this party across the mountains, without any knowledge of where they were going, without a proper amount of supplies, and when the information at our disposal was, that the people in Dawson would be starving, and that it would be little less than a crime to send one additional man there without supplies for himself. So, regardless of expense, we put the supplies across the pass ourselves, and Major Walsh, Mr. Ogilvie and myself went to explore and get some information, and, as quickly as possible, the other party went across. They started down the river, but valuable time had been lost, and the result was, that the ten or fifteen days lost in putting the supplies across by the assistant commissioner was just the time that prevented the party getting into Dawson City before it was frozen in.

I am not sure that that was an unmixed evil. On the contrary, I think it was rather providential, because, as a result, Major Walsh sent off Judge Maguire and Mr. Wade and Mr. McGregor, and the rest of the party and himself waited for some time where they were frozen in, on the banks of the river. Major Walsh then heard that a party purporting to be an American relief expedition was coming in, and from what he heard of the dangers and difficulties regarding encroachments upon the boundary, which he, the chief officer of the Government, would have been held responsible for, he deemed it his duty to go down to the boundary line to find out what was going on, and so he went back to Lake Bennett. From that time to the following spring he devoted himself to getting the supplies down to Lake Lebarge, so that they would get into Dawson City a considerable time before any supplies could get up by the Lower Yukon, via St. Michael. During that time, they put up police posts upon the line of travel; they gave supplies and shelter to the people coming out; and if hon. gentlemen opposite will look back at the

press of that day, they will find it was the universal judgment that Major Walsh and his men on that trail saved the lives of hundreds of people who were coming in. Then, when the spring came and the water opened at Lake Lebarge, Major Walsh took the supplies down the river, where they had a transport. At an enormous sacrifice of time and labour and money, these supplies were taken to the foot of Lake Lebarge and brought to Dawson City in time to prevent any scarcity there, before any supplies could be got up the river for those people who did not have their supplies with them.

Up to that time there had not been in any way whatever a suggestion that Major Walsh had not performed his duty as a commissioner of this Government in a manner that was altogether above criticism. Let me now describe what happened. Major Walsh got in there on the 21st May, 1897. When you are looking back at these things, it seems a long time. Judging by the number of editorials and interviews we have had on the Yukon district, it might be fifty years ago since Major Walsh got into Dawson City, but it was only the 21st of last May he got there. Let us bear that in mind—only about ten months ago. And he got there after a winter of arduous toil, which, in all probability, has seriously injured his constitution for the rest of his life. I venture to say—and this ought fairly to be taken into consideration, when criticising these men—that there is no one of them who will not bear in his constitution the marks of the hardship of that winter as long as he lives. When I was there meeting prospectors upon the trail, meeting boats containing prospectors passing along the river and along the lake, I inquired of the people where they were going, and what they were going to do. What did they tell me? That was in the fall of 1897, when we went through the pass for the purpose of getting some preliminary information, and when our men were taking supplies through the pass so that Major Walsh and his party could get down the river. We saw those men and talked with a large number of them, and they told us that they were not going to Dawson City. In fact, it was almost impossible to find a man, in all that host of people camped along the trail and getting ready to go down, who said he was going to Dawson. These men had the idea at that time that the Dawson district was very limited, that the good claims near Dawson were all taken up, and they told us they were going to the Pelly, they were going to the White River, they were going to the Hootalinqua, that they were going anywhere and everywhere except to Dawson. And the result was that Mr. Ogilvie and I came back fully assured that there was not going to be any great number of people at Dawson. And so we came to the conclusion that the proper place for the head of the Government was Fort Selkirk, in the middle of the district, because

we understood that the people were going to spread over the district and very few were going to Dawson. Mark you, that was not a belief gathered from our imagination. It was gathered by talking with the men themselves. What happened? These men were camped in the passes, and were engaged putting up their shanties along the banks of the lakes and rivers, building their boats and getting ready to go down the stream. In the spring they launched their boats and started. In the meantime, all winter, men had been coming out telling them of the richness of the Dawson district and assuring them that the district was extensive and that there were good claims there to be had. Moreover, these men who were going in found that they could not go off and prospect in the interior of the country the travelling in which was dreadfully difficult, and that if they left the line of travel they would perish. And so they got in their boats, twenty-five or thirty thousand of them, and went down to Dawson City. There were men, practical miners—perhaps a thousand or two thousand of them—who went to different parts of the country and spread themselves over the country prospecting. But the great bulk of the people, certainly not less than thirty thousand, went down to Dawson City. Major Walsh got there on the 21st of May. Inside of three weeks after he got there, there were twenty-five or thirty thousand people in Dawson. I want this House, Mr. Speaker, to imagine that situation—something more than half the population of the city of Ottawa set down on a strip of ground, a mile and third long by a third of a mile wide, bounded on one side by the mountains, from which the melting snow trickled down and made a dreadful mud hole at the bottom, and on the other side, by the river. Imagine, half the population of Ottawa dumped in that mud hole within three weeks—no other word can be used that will express it, they were simply dumped there. There were not houses to give accommodation to more than one-tenth of them. There was no lumber to build houses with. The ground, after you went down eight or ten inches or a foot below the surface was frozen solid, and it was practically impossible to make any drains. These people were dumped on that little strip of territory under these conditions. Were they a class of people to be readily amenable to reason or likely to listen to advice? Were they a class of people who would do just what they were told to do? I have been told that no sanitary regulations were made. Sanitary regulations were made. Mr. Wade and the officers of the Mounted Police did make sanitary regulations. They did everything possible, everything that human beings could do under the circumstances to make the people obey those sanitary regulations. But imagine twenty-five or thirty thousand people dumped in a mud hole without any facility of taking care of them, and you will have

some idea of what our little handful of officers had to contend with. And this was a condition of affairs that no human being could possibly have foreseen, because these people had told me—scores of them—and had told Mr. Ogilvie also, that they were not going to Dawson at all. As proof of that, as proof that I am not giving you something that is a mere belief formed after the event, let me point out one thing. I came back to Ottawa and consulted with Mr. Ogilvie before he went to England. We concluded that the most important thing to do in connection with the mining regulations was to provide some means whereby miners who were scattered through the country at considerable distances could register their claims. I brought the matter before Council and devised the plan whereby these men could register their claims. It was like this:

In the event of the claim being more than 100 miles from the recorder's office, and situated where other claims are being located, the free miners, not less than five in number, are authorized to meet and appoint one of their number a "free miners' recorder," who shall act in that capacity until a mining recorder is appointed by the Gold Commissioner.

Then follow the provisions as to the matters of detail. This we did because we were convinced, as I have said, that the great bulk of these people were going to immense distances and would require some method of this kind in order to enable them to record their claims. The people, as I have said, were camped along the passes and the upper portion of the Yukon. These regulations were sent out to the police officers who were travelling along these passes, with instructions to communicate the information to the people, that they might be informed of it before they started prospecting.

Now, what was the next step? A great many stories have been told as to what was done next. Mr. Ogilvie and I had returned together as far as Vancouver, and he came on to Ottawa after I did. Before Mr. Ogilvie went to England I discussed the subject with him, and I informed him that I had it in view to recommend him as administrator of the territory, to take office when Major Walsh's term was up. Major Walsh went to the Yukon district under great pressure from myself, I believing that he was the best possible man for the position. He went very unwillingly and with the understanding that I should not ask him, under any circumstances, to stay longer than a year. Before he started down to Dawson City in the spring of 1897, he wrote back to me and said he did not wish to remain in Dawson City any longer than he could help, and that he would like his successor to be sent in as early as possible. Shortly after getting that, I cabled to Mr. Ogilvie asking him to return as soon as he could, and he did return as soon as his arrangements would permit him. When he got to Ottawa his health was not the best, and it was some days before he

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could do business. As soon as he was in condition to do business, I consulted him and went over the situation very carefully with him. Then on the 30th June—I will ask the House to mark the date, the 30th June, just 39 days after Major Walsh had got into Dawson City—in pursuance of the understanding with Mr. Ogilvie that he should be appointed administrator in the spring, and in pursuance of the understanding with Major Walsh that I should appoint his successor as soon as possible, I submitted a recommendation to Council asking that Mr. Ogilvie should be appointed administrator of the district.

At that time, it is within the knowledge of the House that no suggestion or complaint in regard to the conduct of Major Walsh had ever been made; and when I am told that I have been negligent; that I have been careless, that I did not appoint Mr. Ogilvie for months, I think some people have said, for years, after I should have done it, I say that I appointed Mr. Ogilvie as soon as it was possible to do so, that there was not the least shadow of delay or negligence in connection with it. The appointment was made just as soon as he came back from England, and he had been urged to come back as soon as possible, he came back as soon as his health permitted, he got away as soon as his health permitted, and he was appointed before a shadow of complaint had been made against Major Walsh or his administration. Mr. Ogilvie was appointed administrator of the district under an Act that was passed last session, providing that there should be a commissioner, and a council to assist and advise him in the government of the district. Now, I recommended to my colleagues the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie as commissioner, of Mr. Wade as legal adviser, and of Mr. Glouard as a member of the council, a gentleman who had been a member of the legislative assembly of the province of Quebec, a lawyer of considerable experience, a man of experience in public life, and consequently a most eligible man, so far as I knew, and so far as I believe at the present time, for the position of a member of the council of the Yukon District, a man whose experience both as a lawyer and a legislator would be most valuable. I also recommended Captain Steele. Who is Captain Steele? Captain Steele was an officer of the Mounted Police, than whom no better officer ever sat in the saddle, and concerning whom no better certificate of character could be required than the reputation which he enjoys throughout that western country. I must say that every information I have goes to show that he is a most valuable and efficient officer, enjoying the respect and esteem of every one, on account both of his ability and character in the position he has occupied. He was also appointed as a member of the council, and was appointed as head of the police administration, that is to say, commandant of police. In addition to these, we appointed a judge of the district. These members compose the

council. Now, Sir, in addition to these I appointed, as inspector of mines, Mr. William Madden. Mr. Madden was appointed because of his special knowledge of mining. The two inspectors I had sent up before had no special knowledge of mining; it was not supposed they would require such knowledge. The special work they were sent there to do, and which they did, was work which was not supposed to require a special knowledge of mining. But a man of ordinary shrewdness and capacity does not need to be very long in the Yukon district to know as much about mining as almost anybody else there—I may not be correct in saying as much as anybody else knows, but as much as it is necessary to know of the operations that are being carried on there, because up to this time the operations are rather crude. But we sent Mr. Madden there, giving him the important position of inspector of mines, because he had for some years been the assistant inspector of mines in the province of Nova Scotia, the oldest mining province in the Dominion; he was recommended to me for that position on account of his special knowledge, by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. Then, Sir, I asked the Minister of Finance to select for me a financial officer to act as controller of the finances of the district. I recognized that it would be very absurd for Mr. Ogilvie to be charged with any financial responsibility, or any trouble in taking care of the accounts of the district. I saw that an especially competent officer would be required for that purpose. Now, did I appoint a man to that position who knew nothing about finances? Not at all. For that position my hon. friend the Minister of Finance recommended an employee of the late Government. I appointed him, not because I did not think that a Grit might know just as much about finances as a Conservative, because I think that the financial record of the last two years would indicate that the Grits know more about finances than the Conservatives—I am referring to the charge made, that we picked out recklessly political friends of the Government for these positions who knew nothing about the work they were called upon to discharge—I appointed him solely on the ground of fitness. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance selected a specially qualified officer of his own department, a man who has been in the service of the Government for a number of years, and who was supposed to be the best man for the purpose, Mr. Thomas Lithgow, an employee of the late Government, and he was appointed as controller of finances. Those were the appointments which we made.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we appointed Mr. Ogilvie, did we appoint the best man for the purpose? Certainly we did not look for a man amongst those who had not been in the service of the Government. Mr. Wm. Ogilvie was first employed on survey work for the Government in 1875. He continued to be so employed until 1892, when he was placed

upon a regular annual salary of \$1,800. In 1887, he was placed in charge of the topographical division and the exploratory survey of the Yukon district. We can say that in addition to Mr. Ogilvie's other qualifications he is known as one of the most competent surveyors that has ever been connected with the survey branch of the Dominion of Canada, or even of the United States, a man who professionally stands very high. When, last session, I recommended to my colleagues to ask Parliament to vote Mr. Ogilvie a gratuity of \$5,000 for his distinguished services, my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Montague) said :

I do not object to this vote of \$5,000 to Mr. Ogilvie. I do not fancy there is a man in this House who will object to it. He has been, it seems, an incorruptible and valuable public servant, and I am sure we will all agree with that vote.

Now, that was only a few days before his appointment. He was recommended on the 30th of June, and on the 4th of July, 1898, he was appointed by Order in Council Commissioner of the Yukon territory. The Ottawa "Journal" of August, 1897, made this editorial reference to him :

While all about him on the Klondike, miners are securing fortunes, Mr. William Ogilvie, the Canadian surveyor whose reports on the district furnish almost the only authentic information concerning the Yukon, is quietly preserving order, settling disputes as to claims and boundaries, and making himself of inestimable service to the Government of which he is an employee, and on the salary of a surveyor. He has not located a single claim for himself.

That is in 1897. In the course of an article in the Montreal "Star" of July 2nd, 1898, we read this :

His opportunities to enrich himself were immense, but he availed himself of none of them ; but took his small salary and did his duty, and came back no richer than if he had been keeping guard over an ice field.

The same journal, the Montreal "Star"—and the hon. gentlemen opposite will not say that the Montreal "Star" is a friend of ours now, whatever they might have said a while ago—had this to say of Mr. Ogilvie :

The country was pleased with the record of William Ogilvie in that district, no matter what his technical duties may have been.

Again, the "Star" had this to say of him : "The country was pleased with the record of William Ogilvie in that district, no matter what his technical position may have been." And the reference was quoted by the "Mail and Empire" of the 8th of that month, approvingly. The Montreal "Gazette" of the 8th of July, another Conservative newspaper, said :

When a Conservative Ministry sent Mr. Ogilvie up, the miners, though he had no authority over them,—

Because he was not given any authority ; he had no official position of any kind except to make a survey.

—respected his decision as to claims, boundaries, and other disputed matters, because he was a just man who would not use his position as agent of the Government to profit himself by a dollar.

When it was rumoured that Mr. Ogilvie was to be appointed commissioner, the Montreal "Gazette" on the 11th of July, 1898, made this reference to him :

It is intimated that Mr. William Ogilvie will soon become the Government's chief commissioner in the Yukon country. It will be a good appointment, and a proper recognition of the services of the man whose work did most to make the Yukon known. It will also put in the most responsible position in the country a man whose character has made him respected by the people he will exercise authority over, and whose presence will be a rebuke to the claim-grabbing speculators who have been given too many positions in the gold district.

The party instinct could not refrain from getting in a crack at a Liberal Government, but at the same time, Conservative as this paper is, it admitted that the appointment of Mr. Ogilvie was a good appointment. The Ottawa "Citizen" has an interesting record on the Yukon question, if it could only be examined. It says in an editorial reference on July 1st, 1898 :

Mr. Sifton, be it observed, when he came into office, found the affairs of the Yukon in charge of Mr. William Ogilvie,—

Well, I did not ; the only thing about that is that it is altogether incorrect.

—whose administration of the district under most trying circumstances was, to say the least, such as to reflect credit upon Canada.

Anything he did he did in spite of the Government.

Readers of the "Citizen" will remember the splendid tributes to Mr. Ogilvie's high sense of duty, which were paid him by such anti-Canadian journals as the New York "Sun." He had the opportunity, had he been so minded, of securing mining claims which would have made him many times a millionaire. But he not only refused to profit by the position to the extent of a dollar, but actually declined to accept testimonials which the miners thrust upon him in recognition of his thorough-going impartiality and devotion to duty. Such is the man whom Mr. Sifton found in office.

Such was the man Mr. Sifton did not find in office

It would have been a small mark of appreciation to have confirmed him in his position.

He would have been asked to stay there had he not desired to come out on account of his ill-health. As a matter of fact, it was absolutely necessary for him to come out.

It would have been but a small mark of appreciation to have confirmed him in his position, possessing, as he did, the entire confidence and respect of the mining population ; but such a course did not fall in with Mr. Sifton's plans.

I quote that article for the purpose of showing that the Ottawa "Citizen," which dis-

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plays in the same article its opposition to myself, approves of Mr. Ogilvie's appointment as the best that could be made. The Montreal "Star" of the 11th of July, 1898, says:

The appointment of William Ogilvie to a position of trust in the Yukon district is a step for which the Government will be gladly given credit. It is difficult to see how they could have made a better choice. But they must be careful not to overpower him with colleagues of political claims, and with men on the make.

I have given you the list of men.

William Ogilvie is trusted because he kept his hands free of speculation when chance called upon him to play an impartial part upon that northern stage paved with temptation.

The Ottawa "Journal," on the 11th of July, 1898, starts out an article by saying:

The Dominion Government scores a big point by its nomination of Mr. Ogilvie to the important post of Commissioner of the Yukon territory.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this is the position, so far as the appointment of officials is concerned: First, we appointed Mr. Fawcett. Mr. Fawcett, a surveyor, was appointed because Mr. Ogilvie recommended a surveyor. He was picked out from the surveyors because the Surveyor General said that he was the best surveyor to be had for the post. Major Walsh was sent out because, by the great mass of public opinion in Canada, he was regarded as the best man for the position, and our political opponents admitted that. Before a word had been said, before a syllable had been uttered imputing any failure of duty to Major Walsh, and I am not saying that anything has been said which shows that there was any failure of duty on his part, but before an objection was raised, we appointed Mr. Ogilvie. Mr. Ogilvie's appointment is admitted by the daily papers and by our political opponents, to be the best that could have been made. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asks, why did you not appoint a lawyer as Gold Commissioner? I did not appoint a lawyer because the man who knew the district recommended a surveyor. I appointed the surveyor recommended as specially fitted for the post by the Surveyor General of Canada; and if the appointment of a surveyor did not turn out to be satisfactory in the light of experience—and that is the only way to consider it—if it was a mistake, it must be remembered that it was then more difficult to say that a lawyer was wanted for Gold Commissioner because complications afterwards arose that nobody anticipated, and that have rarely, if ever, arisen in any other mining country, on account of the enormous concourse of people who crowded into one spot. It was not anticipated that there would be that enormous inrush of people, or that many of them would act in the dishonest or unscrupulous way in which they did. When Major Walsh came back

and discussed the matter with me, and he pointed out to me that it would be well to have a lawyer for Gold Commissioner, I recommended to my colleagues that a lawyer should be appointed. There was no delay about it. We considered the matter with reasonable promptness. I do not suppose that the moment that Major Walsh got here I dashed off to the Prime Minister and said: "Call a Council meeting to appoint a lawyer." These matters are not put through in that way; they have to be considered. We offered the appointment to Mr. Gordon Hunter, a gentleman who practices, I believe, in Victoria, B.C., and we selected Mr. Gordon Hunter for these reasons: I do not think I ever saw Mr. Hunter and I do not know him, but I knew that there had shortly before been a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and that Mr. Hunter had been strongly recommended to the Government by many capable and reliable men as the best man in British Columbia to fill the position of judge of the Supreme Court, and I thought that a man who was qualified to sit upon the bench of the Supreme Court would make a most eligible Gold Commissioner under the circumstances existing as they did at that time in Dawson City. Mr. Hunter was obliged for private reasons to decline the appointment, and I then appointed Mr. Senkler, a barrister of Nelson. I do not personally know Mr. Senkler, but he was highly recommended to me. He is well known in eastern Canada, and I took care to write privately to leading members of the bar in the city of Toronto in whose judgment I have the greatest confidence, as to Mr. Senkler's qualifications. The testimony was universally favourable to him, and as he was strongly recommended in British Columbia, I felt that the appointment was the best that could be made. That may be regarded as having settled the question of my discretion and my judgment in appointing Mr. Senkler. That shows, I apprehend, that there was no dereliction or any desire on my part to do anything except to meet the requirements of the district, and that I acted as soon as the information came so as to enable me to do it.

Then, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wade had come out—we had no advice that he was coming. He came out, largely, on account of injury to his health on the trip in the year before, and when he got here, he was under medical advice, and could not go back. Consequently, a legal adviser was required for the commissioner, a gentleman who would give such legal advice as counsel as Mr. Ogilvie would require in connection with the administration of affairs in the district. I cast about for a gentleman to occupy that position, and I recommended to my colleagues the appointment of Mr. W. H. P. Clement, of Toronto. I do not know a man at the bar of Ontario—and the Ontario bar ranks justly high—I do not know a man at the bar of Ontario whose appointment should be more

satisfactory and commendable than that of Mr. Clement. He was picked out as a man specially qualified for the position. He was a lawyer of first-class standing, a man of unblemished character, a man who had given special attention to the study of constitutional questions, and consequently, although he never was in Parliament, he was a man who had his attention attracted to questions that would naturally arise in connection with the administration of the district: he is the author of a work on the constitution of Canada. Mr. Clement is a man of recognized standing, recognized ability, and recognized character, and I have never heard any one suggest that Mr. Clement's appointment was not one of the best that could possibly be made.

These were the men we appointed in the district. As to the few minor officials we sent up, they were only a few in number, with the exception of the class of labouring men and assistants, who would be hired in this country by the day, and who are only sent out because they are difficult to get there. There is more or less difficulty about getting for the minor positions men of good standing in the east to go to the Yukon. Men of good standing and assured positions do not care to give up their business connections and possibly take the chance of wrecking their lives, unless they happen for some reason to be of an adventurous temperament, and that would not be a particularly good qualification, when we came to select such men. Mr. Speaker, we sent men in there of recognized good character. I have not heard it suggested that a single man we sent to the Yukon, down to the lowest labouring man in connection with any party that went to that district, had a single cloud upon his character before he left this country. Then, Sir, if that be the record, I want to put the Government in the judgment of the House and the country upon this point. For the last year—perhaps not for the last year, but certainly for the last six months—I have been charged and the Government has been charged, with a grave and serious offence in connection with the appointment of officers in the Yukon district. I have been charged with the appointment of a horde of useless political parasites, of debauching and prostituting the public service of this country by the class of men I have appointed, of throwing aside old and tried public servants, and of putting the public service in that district in the hands of men who had no qualification for the position.

Now, I have read you the record of these appointments, and I ask the gentlemen of this House, if it is not so, that never in the history of Canada has a series of appointments been made with more care, and with more universal approbation as to each appointment that had been made.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Too many Tories; that is the only trouble.

Mr. FOSTER. That sticks in your nostrils.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I do not mind being attacked by the press of hon. gentlemen opposite, but it would be desirable that some little faint regard for the facts of the case should be observed, when the discussion of these matters is going on in this House. I have not rushed into newspaper interviews to deny the statements which I have punctured one by one, as I have gone through this statement, but I have waited until I was challenged in the House of Commons to rise in my place and prove that the charges which have been made against me, in connection with the administration of my office, are absolutely without foundation. In dealing with some matters, chronology is everything, because a man may be quite free from blame, if he does a thing in dealing with matters under certain circumstances, when he might be very subject to blame for taking the same action under different circumstances. A man may be free from blame, if he does a thing on the 1st of the month, whereas, if he did the same thing on the 15th of the month, he might be subject to serious blame on account of new information being received by him in the meantime. I, therefore, want to direct the careful attention of the House to these appointments in connection with the dates. I recommended Mr. Ogilvie's appointment on the 30th June. There was no complaint of any kind that I know of against Major Walsh or his administration at that time. I had not the faintest idea that anybody had an idea that Major Walsh was not doing everything that could be done, and doing it in the best possible way, when I appointed Mr. Ogilvie, and urged Mr. Ogilvie to go forward as soon as it was possible for him to go.

It is a large task for a man to undertake the administration of a district like the Yukon. There is no man in this House of Commons to-day—not even my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper)—who has had to organize a new district, organize a government, think of everything that is to be thought of in connection with the government, take a new country and a people with nothing done, and think of everything and provide for everything. There is not a man in this House who has ever had to do it before, not one—not even my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition. There never has been a task of that kind before that one man had to take hold of. The North-west Territories had to be administered, but the administration there grew up gradually. It did not have to be made in a minute; it grew up slowly; police were sent out first, and one thing after another was done. Any such avalanche of responsibility as we have had in connection with the Yukon, never was thrust upon a Government in connection with the North-west Territories. Well, I urged Mr. Ogilvie to go quickly. I said there was no complaint

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against Major Walsh, and that was true. If I recollect aright, there had at that time been an article published, attacking Messrs. Wade and McGregor for having staked claims in the Yukon district, and I mentioned this to Mr. Ogilvie. I do not know exactly the date I mentioned it to him, but I have a strong recollection that I mentioned this to him as one of the reasons why he should go quickly, and I told him, if any ground existed that no Government official should stake a claim, he might report upon it, and deal with it. I insisted on Mr. Ogilvie going up there quickly, and I particularly mentioned the 15th of July as the date before which he should go, if possible. There were a great many things to be done, and a great many consultations to be held with the various departments of the Government. Mr. Ogilvie would come and talk to me for a while, and then he would come down to my house, late at night, having thought of something that nobody else thought of, and he would take advice with regard to these things. They could not be put in the shape of official instructions, because if these things were put in such shape, and circumstances turned out to be different after Mr. Ogilvie got there, he would be bound by his instructions, and could not act otherwise, and so his information was largely taken in the form of consultation with members of the Government. At all events, he did not get away until the 4th of August. Before the 4th of August I had gone westward, and was taking a holiday at Rat Portage. On his way west, Mr. Ogilvie stayed a day or two with me, to go carefully over everything again and to have the last word as to his administrative duties. In the meantime, newspaper articles began to appear, and I said to him: "Now, Mr. Ogilvie the Government reposes complete confidence in you; we look to you to look into those things; I do not give you a commission of investigation, but I expect you to put that service on an effective footing; I expect you to do everything that the honour of the Government of Canada requires in that district, and to do it as soon as possible." That was in conversation at Rat Portage while Mr. Ogilvie was on his way. Then, after he left, while he was on his way to Vancouver, or after he got there, and before he left for the north, thinking these matters over and feeling the responsibility of the whole situation, I feared that he might hesitate, as an officer of the Government, to assume the necessary responsibility; for we all know that an officer of the Government is not like a Minister, who is prepared to meet Parliament and justify his conduct after having done the best he could, but is afraid to take responsibility upon himself. Therefore, I sent a telegram to Mr. Ogilvie, either from Rat Portage or Vancouver, and I want my action in regard to him marked, as shown by my disposition and desire to send this telegram to him at that time. No spe-

cific charge had been made against any officer of the Government; there was nothing but these newspaper statements that matters were not in a desirable condition, and I sent to Mr. Ogilvie a telegram—and such authority was never given to any officer in Canada before, in these words:

You have an absolutely free hand in regard to the officials. Do what is necessary to put the service on an effective footing.

What more could I do? What more could the Government of this country do than we have done?

MR. PRIOR. What is the date of that?

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have not got the date, but I will look it up and give it to the House. According to my recollection, it was sent after Mr. Ogilvie left my house at Rat Portage, and before he left Vancouver, and I have his acknowledgment, since he went to Dawson City, of the receipt of this message. In making the copy of the telegram, the date has been inadvertently left off.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it has been alleged that there were irregularities in the post office in Dawson City. It has been alleged that the constables of the Mounted Police—not the commissioned officers—I do not think that has ever been alleged—that the constables who were in charge of the post office at Dawson City took bribes for the delivery of mail matter outside of regular hours. I do not remember whether Major Walsh said anything specifically about that in his official report or not. I do remember that I discussed the matter with him when he came back, that he said he had called in the officers in charge of the post office, that they had tried in every possible way, by the employment of detectives and otherwise, to ascertain if there was any ground at all for this charge; that although it was rumoured quite commonly that that practice was going on, yet they were utterly unable to fasten it upon anybody; that they had changed the constables in charge, thinking that might possibly have the effect of doing away with the idea, if it was only an idea, or doing away with the practice, if it was a practice. Major Walsh, as soon as he got back, recommended in his official report, that the post office should be taken out of the control of the Mounted Police, thinking they were not adapted to that kind of work; and Mr. Ogilvie, taking the same view as that which Major Walsh had arrived at from his experience, has carried out that recommendation, as Major Walsh would have done if he had stayed there. Mr. Ogilvie, when he went back, did take the post office out of the hands of the police, and, so far as I know, no irregularities are charged as having taken place since. Subsequently, the postmaster appointed by my hon. friend the Postmaster General arrived; and, so far as my information is concerned—and I have not heard any

allegation to the contrary—the service in connection with the delivery of mails at Dawson City is perfectly satisfactory.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who was in charge of the post office? I do not suppose that upon any one point in connection with the administration of the Yukon, this Government has been belaboured, and I have been belaboured and vilified, so much as on account of the post office and the method with which the post office was managed. The impression has been conveyed to the people of the country that I had sent in some more of those political parasites to take charge of the post office, and that those people, sent up there to enrich themselves at the expense of the public, were bleeding everybody. Who was in charge of the post office? Why, Captain Harper, of the Mounted Police, who was appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, was in charge of it all the time; and he was sent there on the recommendation of Mr. White, the Comptroller of the Mounted Police, as a competent officer—why? Because Captain Harper's reputation and record in the Mounted Police was without a flaw and is without a flaw at this moment—because he was a first-class, competent officer. What better could we do than put one of the very best men in the service of the Dominion of Canada in charge of that office? And if Captain Harper in Dawson City could not find out whether his own men were taking bribes or not, and, if they were, could not stop them, will anybody in the name of common sense tell me how I could stop them here in Ottawa? I did not know for months afterwards that the charge was even made; I never heard of it till months afterwards, and yet I am blamed because the man on the ground could not stop these men from taking bribes. Why, Mr. Speaker, the proposition convicts the men who are criticising the administration of the district, of the absolute lack of the most ordinary common sense. If criticism is applied, it ought to be applied with some degree of judgment, and then some attention will be paid to the strictures.

In all this, Mr. Speaker, there is a question of responsibility—a question of how far the Minister is responsible for what his officials do. That is a serious and important question for the House to decide—a question that often has to be decided, and a responsible Minister has always to be ready to answer to it at all times and under all circumstances. He is there to answer or resign. Now, my hon. friend the member for Pictou, on page 775 of "Hansard," defines my responsibility as a member of the Government in the following terms:—

But I charge more against the Minister of the Interior, the responsibility for all I am going to say; I do not wish to deal with these understrappers, I do not wish to deal with the creatures of the Minister of the Interior.

I have told you who these creatures were. And I venture to say that the expression of

opinion given here is not a proper expression of opinion coming for a Privy Council to apply to these well qualified officers in the public service:

I do not wish to deal with these understrappers—I do not wish to deal with the creatures of the Minister of the Interior. He cannot in fairness shelter himself behind their misconduct; he stands primarily charged with all the rascality and all the nefarious conduct of these men.

That is the statement of ministerial responsibility which the ex-Minister of Justice and a privy councillor (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made in this House last Thursday. "Oh that mine enemy would write a book." The hon. gentleman spoke on a similar subject before in this House, time and again, under other and happier circumstances. On page 3035 of the "Hansard" of 1895, the same hon. gentleman is reported as having said this:

Take the criticism of the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock), and the evidence given by the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies) in regard to these details. What do they relate to?

Now, will the hon. gentlemen themselves listen to what is admitted, not charged, by unanimous witnesses, but admitted and proven:

They relate to frauds, to trickery, to deception, to stuffed pay-lists, to all kinds of false pretences; and, if the case stood there, that the Government knowing of that, had done nothing, the case would be grave indeed against this or any Government. But what information, I ask again, has any hon. gentleman in this House on which to base a case against the Government? Do they pretend that they can make one solitary elector in any part of Canada believe that under a Liberal Government, or under a Conservative Government, under the present Government of thirteen or fifteen men, you could guarantee the people of this country against fraud and iniquity on the part of men employed by the Government?

There is a lot more of the same kind, but that, I apprehend, is quite enough. What did the hon. gentleman say in another place? I refer to this because it has a reference to the English Parliament, and it may be perhaps valuable on that account. The hon. gentleman, on page 3038, says:

And if the Government were to fall on that ground, if the Minister were to lose his standing on that ground, what would be the position of Minister after Minister in the Imperial Government? How about the Ministers who are responsible for the construction of ships, that after having been built are almost as speedily condemned? How about Ministers responsible for supplying the army with bayonets that will not stand the slightest use? How about Ministers whose departments have been investigated time and time again in reference to other matters, and who have sheltered themselves, and sheltered themselves properly, behind the advice of experts. I have heard one of the late leaders of this Government state, without quarrel, in this House, and without any difference of opinion being expressed—I refer to the late Sir John Macdonald—that in reference to matters pertaining to engineering, he went by the advice of the engineer.

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I have shown that I have acted upon the best advice in every appointment I have made, and that every appointment I did make has been approved by the hon. gentleman's friend, and not merely by myself. And this hon. gentleman, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) stands up in this House and says that these principles laid down in this book will apply to and excuse my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart). I am not saying they do not, I am not discussing that at all, but I am pointing out that the hon. gentleman has declared that they will excuse the ex-Minister of Railways for the fraud, deception and stealing that took place in Montreal, two hours' ride by an express train from the city of Ottawa, but that they did not apply to or excuse me for what happened in a month or six weeks at Dawson City, when no human being could know what was going on there.

I have shown why we had Major Walsh as the leading administrator, and Mr. Fawcett as gold commissioner, the latter a gentleman appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite and recommended by the Surveyor General, and Captain Harper in the post office. I did not know a syllable of what was going on, and I have the right to say to this House that these men are responsible for what was done and not myself. I said, when I started, that I proposed placing myself in the judgment, placing the Government in the judgment of this House, as to whether there had been the least carelessness or negligence; and I leave the case with the House in complete confidence as to what its judgment will be.

My hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) strayed into other fields, and I was sorry to find that all through his speech there ran a vein or a tone of insinuation, or trying to create the impression that there was some felony, some wrong-doing, some wickedness on my part or the part of the Government that would not bear the light of day. When a man has anything to say about me, I like him to say it out straight, and I wish to say that whenever I have anything to allege against a political opponent, I will not allege it until I have evidence that convinces me, and when I have evidence that convinces me, it will be evidence that ought to convince the House; and then I will take the responsibility of making a charge as a member of the House. I think I would be justified in not dealing with the hon. gentleman's insinuations, I think I would be justified in throwing them to one side; but I will not do it, but will make use of the knowledge I have to enable me to ferret out what the hon. gentleman pretends might have been taking place, and I will prove that there was not a solitary word of truth in the suspicion which he expressed or in the charges which he insinuated. I shall take up the liquor permit question in the Yukon. The hon. gentleman made some statements with regard to that question. In the first place, he charged that there had been gross, and he intimated,

corrupt favouritism in connection with liquor permits for the Yukon district. I have said that there was not, and I shall prove there was not. On page 2434 of last year's "Hansard" will be found a statement which I made to the House at that time of the liquor permits which had been issued up to that time. It will be found, on examination of "Hansard," last year in other places which I need not refer to, that the question came up in this House and was briefly discussed, and I then explained the position to the House. It was this: I had been informed that there was a certain practice in the department, that applications had come in the early part of the year, practically before there was any particular excitement in the Yukon district, and one or two of them, after the excitement arose, and I granted a certain number of permits. They were not granted to my political friends particularly. Of the whole lot, covering altogether perhaps 11,000 gallons, there was only one man to whom a permit was granted that I knew at all, a man from the province of Manitoba with whom I was personally acquainted, and who was a supporter of the Government. All the rest I knew nothing of, except that they were recommended by responsible people and certified to as proper persons to receive permits. I explained that to the House. I say there was not the slightest ground for saying that there was any political favour given whatever. In fact, the return shows that there was no favouritism. On the contrary, those whom I did not know outnumbered those whom I did by ten to one. I saw that applications were coming in rapidly, and that this business had to be stopped altogether, and I stopped it. I said I would not grant any more liquor permits for the Yukon territory, and I did not grant any more. I explained that matter to the House last year, as shown by the "Hansard." When I say that I did not grant any more permits, I mean that I did not grant any more for commercial use. The list that was brought down showing permits granted prior to the time when, as I said, I decided not to grant any more permits, was placed upon "Hansard" at the page referred to. It shows the permits up to August 30th, 1897. It also shows one permit for fifteen gallons of liquor for personal use, given to a man named James H. Brown on the application or recommendation of the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), a member of the Opposition. I do not mean that as any imputation upon the hon. gentleman. I do not think there is anything wrong in the hon. gentleman's certifying to a friend of his as a reputable man who desired a permit for fifteen gallons of liquor for his own personal use, going on that long journey. I gave the permit. But this is what I want the House to be seized of: since the 30th August, 1897, the only permits that have been granted by or under my authority in any way, shape

or form, directly or indirectly, up to the time when Mr. Ogilvie was appointed commissioner—from which time he is held responsible for dealing with the subject, I not even having returns of what he has done—are the following: James H. Brown, fifteen gallons of whisky for personal use; Dr. Rimer, a reputable physician of Aylmer, Que., who went to Dawson City and was allowed to take fifty gallons of alcohol as part of his stock of drugs; the clerks of the Bank of British North America, who were granted a permit for twenty-five gallons for the personal use of the members of that staff; the clerks of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, a similar permit for twenty-five gallons; T. Trotter, Antigonish, five gallons of liquor for personal use; total, 105 gallons. That is the list. Now, I think the House will bear me out that I have answered the accusation of favouritism. The hon. gentleman went on to make the statement that—

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman does not wish to leave the House and the country to understand that 105 gallons of liquor is the total quantity for which permits have been issued for the Yukon district between these dates. If the hon. gentleman has not issued these permits, somebody else has issued them. I suppose he will inform the House.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will give that. I will explain the subject to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) fully and completely. "Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice." My hon. friend the hon. member for Pictou said this:

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If Mr. Woodworth, instead of attacking the Administration, was in their confidence, was a heeler and a friend, he could do as a heeler and a friend of theirs, was able to do in the city of Victoria, a member of the bar, also, that is, to charge and collect a fee of \$500 because he was able, by telegram and by a letter, to obtain from the Minister of the Interior a permit for his client, to send liquor into the Yukon. That is my statement.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will the hon. gentleman tell me who the client was that got the permit?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I will not.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will he tell me by whom the permit was got?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I certainly will not. But I will write to that gentleman, who is a member of the bar, and ask him if I may give his name to the Minister of the Interior and to this House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Surely the hon. gentleman will not make a statement without giving the name of the lawyer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, I will. I have been telling hon. gentlemen here all this evening, on these Yukon charges, the reason why some of these names must be withheld.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there may be a reason why a man who comes from the Yukon is fool enough to think that he will damage his interest by making an honest statement as to the acts of the Government; but there is certainly no reason why a member of the bar of British Columbia, who does business with the Department of the Interior, should be afraid to have his name known in connection with it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no reason in this case.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I may be allowed to state for the information of the hon. gentleman that the statement he has made is absolutely untrue.

I do not, of course, charge the hon. member for Pictou with insincerity, but, reading this report, it will be evident that the hon. gentleman took the ground that he had not made a positive statement and that, a positive statement not having been made, I could not deny it, there was nothing to deny. That was practically the position he took. Now, here is what he said. Is this a positive statement or is it not? Is it a statement that I could deny if I knew all the facts, or is it not?

If Mr. Woodworth, instead of attacking the Administration, was in their confidence, was a heeler and a friend, he could do as a heeler and a friend of theirs, also, a member of the bar, was able to do in the city of Victoria, that is, to charge and collect a fee of \$500 because he was able, by telegram and by a letter, to obtain from the Minister of the Interior a permit for his client, to send liquor into the Yukon. That is my statement.

He could do what another man did who was able to get a permit from me—that is his statement. Well, I said then that a member of the bar did not get a permit from me. I said the statement was untrue, and I say it is untrue now, and I will prove it. Perhaps the hon. gentleman did not intend to say what he did. Perhaps he intended to do what he said afterwards he had done, perhaps he intended to insinuate without saying it, but inadvertently he said it—there is no question about that. Now I have read a list of the permits, and the question I am going to consider before this House is whether a member of the bar of the city of Victoria—I do not care how much he charged, he may have charged whatever he liked—got a permit from me upon a telegram as stated by the hon. member for Pictou. I do not know that it would be a crime if he did. If the law gave me authority to give a permit, if it was part of my official duty to decide whether a permit should be given or not, I would decide it; and if, as a matter of policy I thought it was best to give it, and if I gave it on the soli-

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citation of a member of the bar of British Columbia, I do not know that that would be any dreadful crime. I did give some permits, but not just in that way, and I am prepared to answer for them. I do not know that there would be any crime in doing what the hon. gentleman charged, but what I am prepared to say now is that it is not so, that is all.

Mr. HAGGART. Did not that party get a permit from your office in any way?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I cannot find out who the party was. Tell me who he was, then I will tell you.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name, name.

Mr. HAGGART. Perhaps I have not followed the debate very closely. I thought that the name of Mr. Woodworth was mentioned, and the hon. gentleman denied that he had given him a permit. I may be mistaken. Did this man Woodworth get a permit?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I understand my hon. friend was not here the other evening. The name of Mr. Woodworth came in because he was the man who wrote a letter which the hon. member for Pictou was quoting. But Woodworth had nothing to do with the permit, nothing whatever. I gave last year the list of permits which I had granted, and in that list there is no permit that was granted upon a telegram from any lawyer in the city of Victoria, and I have granted no permits since—that is permits for commercial use; so where is the hon. gentleman's statement? In that list there is a permit that was granted upon a telegram from Victoria, and the telegram is here. But it was not granted upon a telegram from a member of the bar or a heeler of the Grit party; it was on a telegram from the Hon. Jas. H. Turner, leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia. If the hon. gentlemen want to look at it, they can look at it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read it, read it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I may say in the first place that I had received, I think, three applications, one from a man named Chambers, and another from a man named Menzies, the last permit, I think that was granted—the last permit for liquor for commercial use. First, I received a letter from Chambers, then I got this letter from Mr. Turner, who requested me to give a permit to Sullivan, McLeod and McPhee. I did not know the men, I never saw them.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. All Tories.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I suppose they are Tories. In answer to this letter I wrote to Mr. Turner and said that I regretted that I could not give the permit, that I was in great doubt about the advisability of granting any more permits, and had about come to the conclusion that I

would not do it. I had also told Chambers that I would not give him a permit. Then I got this telegram from Mr. Turner, dated 21st of August, 1897:

Have had no reply to my telegram—

There must be a mistake of a day or two about the dates of the issue of the permit. They probably refer to dates entered upon the files here.

Have had no reply to my telegram re permit to Sullivan & Co. It is urgently wanted, as last steamer sails in few days. Please wire permit to collector customs.

That would be after my answer to his letter of the 14th of July, but before he had received it. Then he telegraphs later:

Will you wire reply to my letter of 20th July?

J. H. TURNER.

In response to either one of these telegrams, whichever I got the last, I thought the matter over, discussed it with my deputy, and solely out of consideration for the request of the Prime Minister of British Columbia, I decided to grant that permit. I said to my deputy: Well, I have told these other men—I think two of them, one certainly—that I could not give him a permit; now I will have to give him the permit. If I give it to one man I must to the other. So I gave permits to both. Then I closed the bill, as I have said, and we have not granted a permit since for liquor for commercial use. Now I must say this, that I do not believe there is a fair-minded man upon either side of the House who will not admit that I am correct in saying that there is no possible palliation for the unfairness of the hon. member for Pictou in attacking me about a telegram alleged to have been sent, and positively refusing to give me the name of the man that sent it or the name of the man it referred to. Why, Mr. Speaker, in my department last year, I am told by my deputy, over 175,000 letters and telegrams have come in and gone out. Would the hon. gentleman expect me to remember a telegram when he won't give me the name? Now, I will tell you what I have done. The name not being given, my secretary and my deputy have taken the directory of British Columbia, and they have looked up the name of every lawyer in Victoria. They searched the files of the Department of the Interior and they searched my private files. There is not a telegram from a lawyer there in regard to a permit that can be found.

Mr. FOSTER. That is conclusive of nothing.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If a telegram has been sent to me by a lawyer in Victoria, and is not on the file, if I have received a telegram somewhere else, when I have not been in Ottawa, or a telegram which has been lost or mislaid, then I tell the hon. gentleman, that the man who sent that telegram got no permit in reply to it.

I am not responsible for telegrams being sent; I am responsible for the replies. There was a telegram sent from Victoria, from a lawyer—I would not call him a heeler, I would not describe him in that way; I cannot state what the telegram says, because the information comes to me in a way that I cannot disclose. If the hon. gentleman had given me a name, if he will give it to me now, I will look; I will meet him on his ground and prove that he does not know what he is talking about; but I can only look around and see how the story got around. The law partner of the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is the only man that the public or private records of this Government show has ever telegraphed to a member of this Government from the city of Victoria about a liquor permit. He telegraphed to one of my colleagues. My colleague asked me about it. Well, what I told my colleague is best evidenced by the answer that my colleague sent. The answer that my colleague sent was:

Saw Minister of Interior. Regret exceedingly impossible to grant permit.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I was dealing with the charges, or statements, of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), with regard to the administration of the Yukon, and I think I disposed of the allegation of the hon. gentleman about the telegram. I desire now to say, with reference to the statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), as to a fee of \$500 having been paid to a lawyer who was described as a heeler of the Grit party, that it turns out, according to the best information I can get, after searching the public and private files of the members of the Government, that the reference must have been to the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). Whatever fee may have been paid to this gentleman is not my business, and it is not the business of the Government, and it is not part of the official duty of a Minister of the Crown to regulate the fee which may be paid to a lawyer in Victoria for any business which he may do with the department. What I am responsible for is what I do, and if a gentleman telegraphs to me, I am not responsible for his telegram; I am responsible for the answer; and I have shown absolutely beyond any doubt, that the statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is altogether incorrect. No such permit as that to which he refers was ever obtained. The only application that was made for a permit to which he could possibly refer was made in that way, was made by

his own partner, and it was properly refused. It surpasses the wit of man to understand what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) could have meant by making such a statement in this House.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made another statement, which I will repeat to the House, and I will let the House decide between the Minister of the Crown and the leading member of the Opposition who made the statement. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) deliberately stated that I had stopped liquor at the boundary of the Yukon so that liquor that was being taken in by friends of mine might catch up. That was his charge. So I understood it after reading the "Hansard" report, and so I understand it now. I do not think there can be the least doubt that what he charged was about what he meant. Sir, I have already stated what my position upon the liquor question was. I have stated that there were not any permits I had granted, that there were no friends who got any permits, or who were taking any liquor up there. The statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is, therefore, without any foundation. I will go further, however, and I will make to the House a complete disclosure of all the knowledge I have with regard to the question, with special reference to the question of the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster)—who is not now in his place—when he asked me, if 105 gallons for which I gave permits for personal use, and druggist use, and so on, was the only liquor that had gone in. At the end of August, 1897, as I said to the House last year, I made up my mind to prevent, if possible, liquor from being sent in, and that matter was brought up in the House last session and then discussed. That resolution I adhered to up to the time when the local council took charge. Whatever Mr. Ogilvie and his council may have done since, I have no returns from them on the subject; but I have no doubt that I will be able to assume the responsibility for what he and his council have done up to this time, and may do in connection with the question. As to that, however, I have no return up to the present time. It was a matter of discussion in the House last session, that I had had an interview with the members of the North-west Government. The question as to whether they had power to advise the Lieutenant-Governor to issue permits came up, and, without attempting to come to any decision upon the legal aspect of the question, or upon the propriety of the Government undertaking to interfere and by force of its authority over the chief executive officer of the North-west Territories or its relation to him, to prevent the issue of these permits, an understanding was come to. I interviewed in the city of Ottawa the two members of the North-west Territories Government, and I stated to the House last year, if I recollect it aright—I have not seen the

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books of reference lately—but my recollec-
tion, as I stated to the House last session,
was, that I had an understanding with the
two members of the North-west Govern-
ment, Mr. Ross and Mr. Haultain, that no
permits should be issued for liquor for any
commercial purpose. There was something
said about issuing permits to persons who
might want to go from the Territories to the
Yukon district, and merely wanted permits
for taking in liquor for personal use, and I
said I had no objection in the world to that,
and we parted on that understanding. I
think I stated that understanding to the
House; I certainly stated it to my col-
leagues. I went on that understanding, and
had not the least idea that the understand-
ing was being violated. Now, Sir, I wish to
state, with some degree of care, what my
position in regard to that matter is, although
it is not a question at all that affects my
action about giving permits. I was inform-
ed, later on, that the North-west Govern-
ment was issuing permits. I stated to my
colleague who privately informed me of
that fact, that it could not possibly be so,
because I had a positive understanding with
them it should not be done. My colleague
said he knew it was so, and I, therefore,
communicated with one of the members of
the North-west Territories Government. I
was replied to, to this effect: That, while
it was not denied that there had been an
understanding of the kind, when I parted
with these gentlemen here, yet, practically
this was the position taken: That, in view
of all the circumstances, and what had
transpired since, and the delay in getting
the Yukon Government Bill through the
House, they did not conceive that the spirit
of the understanding required that they
should abstain from issuing permits, and
consequently they had gone on and issued
them. Well, I cannot say that my friends
in the Government of the North-west Terri-
tories were dishonest in that, but it was cer-
tainly altogether a departure from what I
understood had been agreed to between us.
I simply state that in order that the House
may know exactly what took place. I do
not accuse these gentlemen of bad faith; I
have no idea they acted in bad faith; but I
had a clear understanding in one way, and
they, while admitting the understanding,
conceived they were excused by what sub-
sequently took place. In the month of June,
of last year, there was great pressure for
permits for liquor, which pressure was re-
lated by myself and by the Government
here; but I was informed by persons com-
ing from the coast, that there was no doubt
that attempts would be made to get liquor
into the Yukon, other than the liquor—

Mr. DAVIN. Would my hon. friend (Mr.
Sifton) permit me? Before the hon. gentle-
man goes away from the arrangement made
with the North-west Government, may I ask
him: Does he contend that the North-west
Government admitted that the Department

of the Interior had any jurisdiction at that
time in regard to permits in the Yukon?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I
have not discussed that at all.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, but it is very important.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR
(Mr. Sifton). If the hon. gentleman (Mr.
Davlin) wants to bring that question up some
other time I will discuss it. I am now
discussing a question of fact, and I am not
discussing in any way that legal question.
I was informed that undoubtedly an at-
tempt would be made, to get quantities of
liquor into the Yukon district that were not
authorized by any legal permit, and, there-
fore, I directed that a letter should be writ-
ten, and a letter was written—a copy of
which I hold in my hand—on the 10th of
May, 1898, directed "To the Officer
Commanding the Dominion Mounted Po-
lice in the White Pass, via Victoria." That
was the place through which the liquor
would go if it went at all. That officer was
Major Wood; and I may say that Major
Wood had supervision over not only the
White Pass but also the Chilkoot Pass,
which afforded access to Lake Bennett,
down which any liquor would go. This let-
ter of May 10, was as follows:—

Dear Sir,—I beg to advise you that no authority
has been given to an officer of the Government
to issue permits for the importation of liquors
into the Yukon district, and that no statute gov-
erning the issue of permits has been passed.

That referred, of course, to the fact that the
Yukon Bill had not yet got through.

The only permits which have been issued, and
which can therefore be honoured, are those
named in the inclosed list. I desire, therefore,
to instruct you that with the exception referred
to the law prohibiting the importation or sale of
liquor in the district of the Yukon must be
absolutely and strictly enforced.

That was strictly in accordance with the
position I had taken in the House, and at-
tached to that letter was the list of permits
which I had presented to the House during
the session. I think the date of presentation
was later than the date of this letter. In
addition to the permits mentioned in this
list, some permits appeared which had been
granted by the Lieutenant-Governor of the
North-west Territories, and of which I had
been advised. So that this list comprised at
that date all the permits I had any know-
ledge of having been granted, and this list
was placed officially in the hands of that
officer, so that he might not be imposed upon
by any forged permits being taken in. Then
I was informed, as I have said, that other
permits were being issued by the North-
west Government, directly contrary to my
wishes and to the well known wishes of the
Government here. That is not said, however,
with a view of suggesting that the members
of the North-west Government, in the exer-
cise of their constitutional functions, are in
any way bound to consider the wishes of the

Government here. I simply say as a matter of fact that it was done contrary to our wishes. I ascertained that the permits were being issued, and I had the North-west Government communicated with, and a list of the permits that had been issued by them was sent down to the Government here. Upon that I referred to the Minister of Justice the question whether these permits were good and were in force, in view of the position of affairs at that time. The Minister of Justice advised me, in the first place, that the permits were good. He also advised me, by another letter, that he was of opinion that we had power to cancel the permits if we saw fit to do so. I concluded at once that it would not be a fair or an honest thing to cancel the permits, because the people who had got them had gone to the North-west Government, had paid their money, and had invested a large sum of money on a document which was legal at the time; and I thought it would be a breach of faith on the part of the Government to cancel permits obtained under these circumstances. Therefore, at my direction, this letter was sent on the 9th of July:

With further reference to my letter to you of the 10th May last, in the matter of permits for the importation of liquor into the Yukon district, I desire to inform you that the permits enumerated on the annexed schedule have been issued by the Government of the North-west Territories, and, it having been decided that these permits should be recognized, you will therefore allow the persons mentioned in the said schedule to take in the liquor specified opposite their respective names, upon the production of the permits unexpired.

This letter was sent to Commissioner Walsh and to the North-west Mounted Police officers commanding at the following posts:—Stikine River, Chilkat, Chilkoot Pass, White Pass, Lake Bennett, Hootallinqua, Lake Tagish. I did not know where these men would be taking the liquor in, and so far as I could do so I sent the notice, so that they would not be stopped, instead of sending a notice, as the hon. member for Pictou says, so that they would be stopped. Later on, an amended list came from the North-west Government, and another letter was sent to the officer commanding the North-west Mounted Police, correcting the list, and inserting the additional permits, which were sent in the amended list. That is the history of the stopping of liquor at the coast; and hon. members will see what a ridiculous mare's nest the hon. member for Pictou has fallen into. In the first place, I had not issued any permits to my friends, consequently, there was not any liquor being taken up by them to be stopped. In the second place, the requisite permits were written pursuant to my duty as a member of the Government, to see to the proper administration of the law in the district. The House will further see, in answer to the suggestion of the hon. member for York, that the liquor that was taken in for which I was respon-

sible, if it was all taken in—I fancy it did not all get there—amounted to 105 gallons; and the liquor that flooded the district amounted to something like 60,000 or 65,000 gallons—I have not the total. That liquor was taken in in direct opposition to my wishes and without any power on my part to prevent it, under permit of the North-west Government.

On the subject of telegrams, to revert to that interesting subject, if the hon. member for Pictou was not referring to the Prime Minister of British Columbia or to his partner, perhaps he was referring to Mr. Archer Martin, now Mr. Justice Martin. Mr. Archer Martin, then a Liberal lawyer in Victoria, telegraphed to me on the 8th of July:

Pither & Leiser, leading firm liquor merchants here, were granted permit from Regina, May 21st, to import 2,000 gallons into Yukon, and forwarded goods charge responsible employee. Messenger just arrived from north that goods stopped by Major Steele at Lake Bennett under your instructions of May 10th and June 3rd, presumably because of conflict between Governments.

It was not in consequence of any conflict between Governments, because the first letter was written when we had not any information. The letter was written giving the information, and adding to the list as soon as we got the information.

Public here understood this matter had been amicably arranged, and that Regina permits now recognized by you. Parties interested very responsible merchants and good standing. Stoppage working great hardship and heavy loss. Would respectfully urge you will immediate instructions Steele my care allow permit recognition, so that messenger return by steamer sailing probably to-morrow, and party proceed without further delay and loss.

ARCHER MARTIN.

I wired this reply:

Archer Martin, Victoria, B.C.

This telegram will be authority to Major Steele to recognize permit to Pither & Leiser issued by North-west Government to take into Yukon 2,000 gallons of liquor.

That permit was not issued by me, but issued against my wishes—issued by the North-west Government for the taking into the Yukon of 2,000 gallons of liquor. That, therefore, is the complete story of the liquor question.

I am going to refer to one other matter which was not mentioned by my hon. friend in express terms, but there was a vague statement, an innuendo, in his remarks which had reference to that or something similar—I do not know exactly what it was. Before becoming a member of this Government, I practiced law in the town of Brandon. A gentleman there named A. E. Philp, was a junior partner in my office. This gentleman, like a great many others, caught the gold fever, the Klondike fever, last year, and went out to the Yukon. Promptly some of the Conservative journals in Canada proceeded to say that Mr. Philp had

I fancy it did to 105 gallons; and the district 60,000 or 65,000 gal. That liquor proposition to my power on my part of the North-west

ms, to revert to the hon. member ag to the Prime a or to his part- ing to Mr. Archer tlin. Mr Archer yer in Victoria, th of July :

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gone out as my partner—as my partner, mark you, Mr. Speaker—and was speculating on my behalf in Klondike gold mining. If this statement had not been made in the press, I would not have referred to it. I wish to say that while I am dealing with these innuendos of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that I flatly, positively, emphatically, in the most unqualified manner, contradict any such statement. I defy any man living to bring the slightest evidence of the truth of any such statement. I dissolved partnership with Mr. Philp when I became a member of the Government, and have had no business connection with him directly or indirectly, in any way, shape or form, since that time. If he went to the Klondike, he went on his own responsibility. If he got gold mines he got them the same as anybody else, and I have nothing whatever to do with that. The story was circulated at the coast that I had given Mr. Philp a liquor permit, and that he had taken liquor into the Klondike, and with that charity which covers a multitude of sins, the story was industriously circulated that I was his partner in connection with the taking of liquor into that country. Well, Mr. Speaker, he never had a liquor permit from me or my department, directly, indirectly, or in any way, shape or form, by or under the authority of any member of this Government. I hold Mr. Philp's written statement—which he is prepared to verify by statutory declaration, and which will render him liable to an indictment for perjury if not true—that he never took any liquor into the Klondike in any way, shape or form. Mr. Philp came to me one day in my office and said that Major Walsh had made an order about requiring 600 pounds of provisions for each person going over the pass; that he intended to go up to the Yukon on a short visit—that he was just going in and out; and that he wanted me to give him an order authorizing him to go in without the 600 pounds of provisions. I said to him: You do not need any order, the police will not stop you, you are not going as a prospector, and besides the police have not the authority to stop you. The order is, to all intents and purposes, an advisory order. If any one goes in without that amount of provisions, the police cannot prevent him as they have not the legal authority to do so. He, however, said he did not want to have any trouble with the police and asked me to give him a letter. Which I did. I wrote this letter:

This will introduce Mr. Philp, who will be permitted to enter the Yukon district with such provisions he may choose to take with him, without regard to the regulations.

When Mr. Philp got to the coast, like the partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and a great many other distinguished gentlemen, he desired to become interested in the bringing of liquor into the Yukon. He telegraphed me,

asking me to write him that the letter I had given him should include liquor, and his request was promptly declined. I would not refer to this were it not for the evident vein of insinuation about this thing that travelled through the speech of the hon. member for Pictou. It seemed to me to call for an answer. Friends of mine at the coast advised me that this story was going the rounds, and I promptly denied it. I have now shown exactly what the facts are. There is not a syllable of truth in it.

I desire for a moment to advert to the charge made by the hon. member for Pictou that the officials in Dawson had decamped as soon as they heard that charges were being made against them. Well, Major Walsh came home in pursuance of a letter written me that he intended to come as soon as he possibly could. Having done what he thought was necessary on arrival at Dawson, he intended to come up so as to be sure of not getting caught in there for the winter, and he came out in pursuance of that letter. Mr. Bliss, the accountant, came out to close up the accounts with the department, and Mr. McGregor came out with despatches containing official information. Mr. Wade and Mr. Norwood came out before either of them knew that any charges had been made against them. They knew nothing of any such charges until they got home. Messrs. Bliss, McGregor, Wade and Norwood are now in Dawson City, and prepared to meet before Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner, any charges that may be made against them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) spent some time on the question of the secrecy of the records. He charged that under my administration the records of the mining bureau at Dawson were kept secret. I have adverted to the fact that these records were kept under the same regulations and precisely the same instructions as those which had been in vogue under the late Government, and that there is no shadow of ground for the suggestion that anything I have said or done or any authority I had granted was responsible in any way for the mining records being kept secret. The charge is made that information could not be got out of the office, and that in British Columbia information can be readily got. But in British Columbia upon no occasion, if my information is correct, has there ever been anything like the rush of work and the rush for the registration of claims which there was in Dawson City at the time under consideration. There can be no difficulty about getting information when you have a large office with six or seven men coming in during the course of the day to get information, and where the books and everything are in such a shape that the clerk can hand them out upon the counter and stand there while the person seeking information examines them. There is no difficulty about that, but the position in

the Yukon was altogether different. From the 1st of May, 1898, to the 31st January, 1899, there were 10,543 claims registered, or an average of about forty for every working day. Remember that these applications could not be taken by everybody. They had to be taken by the clerk who knew what was going on in the office, who was familiar with the work that had been done before, and would not make the mistake of recording a claim for one man that had already been recorded by another. That was done in some cases by mistake, because mistakes cannot always be avoided. When a man came in, moreover, it was not a case of throwing down a paper as in a registry office. He had to come in and tell where his claim was, and then he had to have his affidavit drawn up and then it was sworn to. Then the clerk had to find out what claims had been registered before. And yet they registered an average of forty claims a day, even with the miserable facilities they had. And no officers could have done better.

Then, it is charged that information could not be got by those who desired it as to unrecorded ground. It was proper that it should be given out, but the reason why it was not given out was that the thing was impossible. There were, practically, hardly any of the creeks surveyed. Dominion, Bonanza and El Dorado were surveyed and the men were at work upon others. But a lot of men would stampede to a creek and then rush back to the office to record their claims, expecting the clerks to be able to say off-hand what ground was recorded and what was not. Under the circumstances, this was utterly impossible. The information could only be had as the result of a considerable amount of careful work, after the surveyor had gone upon the creek and actually surveyed and scaled it, so that the clerks could know what they were doing. I sent surveyors there last winter for that purpose. And, last year, when I was taking my estimates through the House for the Surveyor General's branch, I explained that some of the surveyors were needed for the very purpose of surveying the claims and getting them straightened out. And what happened? The hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) got up and protested against anything of that kind. I will read his remarks, they are well worth reading in view of the present state of affairs. I read this not so much to make a point about the surveying of claims in particular as to show that rules that apply in one place do not apply in another, that practice that is good in one place may not be good in another; and that if you are going to make a practice for Dawson City, you have to fit it to the circumstances you have to deal with. The hon. gentleman said:

Surely the hon. gentleman is not going to take the public funds of the country to defray the cost of surveying out mining claims in the Yukon. In British Columbia, if I take up a claim, and he takes up a claim, and if there is any clash in respect to the claim, we have got to get that

settled by getting a Crown grant, after a survey for a Crown grant. We have to pay our own surveyors, the dispute can only be settled when the surveys are made, and the actual bounds are set out, not by the Government, not at the expense of the Government, but at the expense of the holders of the claims themselves. The same in the province of Ontario. Provincial money does not survey the claims of the claim-holder in Ontario. That is all at the expense of the mine-holders, or the claim-holder himself. In Ontario you have to pay about \$2 an acre for a survey; in British Columbia you have to pay some \$500 or \$600 in order to get a survey made for a Crown grant. Surely the Dominion, in the Yukon, is not going to take the burden of surveying out individual miners' claims.

Later on, he said:

I protest, if the practice has been begun, against public funds being used for surveying claims of individual miners. Let each man pay for the survey of his claims, as is done in every mining country in the world.

If we had followed the practice laid down by the hon. member for York, trying, as the circumstances proved, they would have been worse; they would have been simply unbearable. You could get at some information about these claims if surveys had been made. But when a lot of people rushed out and stamped an unknown creek concerning which the clerks knew simply nothing—nothing of its geography, nothing of its length, whether it was five or fifty miles, not even where it was; and when they then dash at the office to record their claims, how is the clerk to give them information? And the next day men come in and demand to know what ground is recorded. The records have not been entered up, the plans have not been made—how can you tell anything about them? The people expected that, even under these circumstances, the clerk would do everything, just as it is done in a registry office in the city of Ottawa. It is contrary to all reason, and it could not be done. The Gold Commissioner did not have sufficient accommodation in his office. But that was not his fault, nor was it my fault. I have pointed out to the House that there was no reason to suppose that this enormous rush of people would go to Dawson in the spring. We were not providing for that; we were providing for registration in other places where we thought the people were going. And the Gold Commissioner, living in Dawson City, in the winter of 1897, had no notion of what was going to happen when the water opened in the spring. He did not know until a very short time before the rush came, when some people got in over the ice and warned him. He immediately let a contract for a new building for his office. But you cannot get a new building in Dawson City all in a minute. It was a slow matter. The building was not finished until Major Walsh got there. In the meantime they were having a dreadful time with the accommodation they had. They were trying to meet the requirements of these twenty or thirty thousand people

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know why it is these things have hap-
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sonable should expect that under the
umstances that existed in Dawson for
or three months—circumstances never
alled in Canada before—everything
ld be done exactly as it would have been
e in one of the departments in the city
Ottawa. But it seems to be held by some
ur newspaper critics, and even by some
gentlemen in the House of Commons,
this is what ought to have been done. I
to call attention to the fact that in Brit-
olumbia the men who stake out claims
prospectors, men who, almost without ex-
ception, are in the habit of prospecting,
and I think hon. members of British Col-
umbia will bear me out when I say that in
that province a miner's stake is considered
sacred, that it is a thing almost unknown for
a miner's stake to be pulled up or defaced
or destroyed, or for a man to come along
and stake the ground that has already been
staked. Why? Because the miner under-
stands the miners' laws, and knows perfectly
well that no man has any security unless he
respects the rights of others. And they
practically never have any difficulty in the
mining offices in British Columbia. But what
happened in Dawson City. We had thousands
of people to whom nothing was sacred. I
will lay on the Table of the House a report
of proceedings which will show that one
man deliberately staked ground over another
man's stakes. He walked along, put down
his stakes and marked his claim when stakes
were there already. Then he went back
to the office at Dawson City, swore that the
ground was vacant, that the land was un-
recorded, and got a certificate for it, though
it had been staked out by another man who
had also got a certificate for it.

It is beyond the possibility of dis-
pute that there were men in Daw-
son City who constantly went out and staked
over land that had been staked before, came
in, applied to have the claims recorded, and
made affidavit that the land was unrecorded.
Men have gone out where claims were staked,
changed the names off the stakes, and put
their own names on instead. Now, I want to
ask any sensible man how any Gold Com-
missioner living could have kept his records
right, could have got correct information and
recorded every man's claim as he applied to
have it recorded, under such a condition of
circumstances as that. It could not be done.
In justification to Mr. Fawcett—an honest
man, as I believe him—I believe him to be
honest upon his long record of faithful pub-
lic service in this country, I believe him to
be honest until he is proved to be dishonest.
I will give him that amount of fair play—I
think it is fair to say of him that he

laboured under a most unparalleled set of cir-
cumstances, that no man ever had such
frightful difficulties to cope with, and so
little facilities of any kind to enable him to
cope with them successfully. They were cir-
cumstances that could not be helped. I want
to tell the House that there has been a story
going which everybody here has read—it
has gone the rounds of the press, it has been
repeated in conversation, and it is something
like this: That a man has gone into the Gold
Commissioner's office to record his claim, that
he has been told to come back next day, that
he came back next day and found the claim
recorded in the name of somebody else. That
is given as evidence, as a proof, mind you, of
the fact that the official has given it illicitly,
improperly and dishonestly to somebody else.
Now, I say that does not prove anything of
the kind. There is not a lawyer living who
has the least conception of the value of evi-
dence, who would even suggest that under
the conditions that existed there, there was
even an implication of anything wrong.
Why, Sir, think of the rush that was going
on; I wonder that they were able to record
anybody's claim immediately upon applica-
tion; because when a man came in while
that rush was going on, it was necessary for
the clerk to satisfy himself, before he re-
corded the claim and gave a certificate, that
that claim had not been recorded to anybody
else. In a great many cases search had to
be made, when the business was going on
very fast the records would naturally not be
entered up, and these would have to be en-
tered up, and unless the clerk was perfectly
familiar with that particular piece of ground,
he would have to scale out the creek, see
the amount of ground that was there, and
the number of claims that had been recorded,
before he gave a certificate. In many cases
he would find the record had been given to
somebody else, in many cases he would find
that the ground did not permit of as many
claims as people were applying to be re-
corded. The result was, no doubt, that men
came in and applied to have claims recorded,
it could not be done on that day, and they
were told to come back the next day, and
when they came back and found they had
been recorded in somebody else's name, they
concluded that there had been illicit and im-
proper dealings in the Commissioner's office,
but there is no evidence of that. Now, if a
man thought that his claim had been illicitly
given to somebody else, his remedy was sim-
ple: He had merely to go to the Gold Com-
missioner and enter a protest. That has
been done in plenty of cases. I have tried
an appeal myself—I remember at least one
case of that kind. All the person aggrieved
had to do was to enter a protest, and if it
was a simple case, Mr. Fawcett tried it him-
self; if it was a complicated case, he would
call in Judge Maguire. Judge Maguire took
the evidence and heard the case, heard the
lawyers on both sides, certified his opinion
to Mr. Fawcett, and Mr. Fawcett decided in
accordance with the opinion of the

Judge. When you come to examine these things, these allegations, when you look at them in the light of ordinary business, there is no evidence whatever of any impropriety or crookedness in anything that has occurred. Mr. Speaker, I lived in Manitoba during what was known as the land boom. We had a fine brick post office, with a postmaster and a trained set of officials, a great array of lock boxes and every modern convenience that can be suggested. We had a land registry office specially built for the purpose, a competent registrar, a first-class set of clerks, and books with a proper system of book-keeping in which every letter had been entered up long before the rush took place. There was no survey to be done, no trouble about boundaries, but everything moved like clockwork. Well, in the city of Winnipeg, with a brick post office and a large staff of clerks, with every modern convenience, with telegraphic and express communication with Ottawa so that anything in the nature of additional help could have been had at any time, I have seen men stand twelve hours in line in front of the post office in the city of Winnipeg, in the middle of civilization, and I have seen a man give another man \$10 to get his place in the line. I say further, that it was well known at that time in the city of Winnipeg that a man who did not want to stand in line could get his mail by paying a boy to let him in at the side door. I was a clerk in a law office at the time, and I know that was done. Yet did anybody ever hear the Government of that day charged with corruption on that account?

Mr. MCGREGOR. That was in 1882, and I have seen it myself.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have no doubt there are many in this House who stood in that line. Did anybody ever hear the Government of the Dominion of Canada charged with corruption on that account? The thing was too absurd. But when the thing happened in Dawson City, where there was no possibility of coping with the difficulty, the Government is charged with corruption. Now, is not that the height of absurdity? When I was a law student at Winnipeg, at the same time, I have waited for two weeks to get an abstract from the registry office.

Mr. MCGREGOR. So have I, often.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The registry was thoroughly equipped with everything that modern knowledge and skill could put in the hands of the registrar, but with everything that could possibly be done to facilitate business, I have had to wait two weeks for a single abstract. But at Dawson City these gentlemen thought that if they had to wait half an hour they were being outraged and somebody was defrauding them. Now, I am only putting this matter to the House as to men of common sense. When these things happened at Winnipeg, did anybody shout about the Government

being corrupt? Not at all; everybody there knew the exceptional state of affairs, knew that the officers of the Government, the officers of the land registry office, the officers of the Dominion lands office, the officers in the post office, were all doing their best to keep up with their work, and no fault was found with them in any way, shape or form.

Mr. PRIOR. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question? He has stated that he has known in Winnipeg men to give other men \$10 for their places in the procession. Did he ever know any man to go in at a side door and give a Government official \$10 to get his record in?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have known of a man giving a clerk \$5 to go in at the side-door to get his mail. I did not accuse the Dominion Government of corruption on that account. I do not think the postmaster found it out at all; he did not know it.

There is another charge which has been made which I cannot fail to deal with. I have been told, and this is a serious charge, that, under my administration of the department, the law respecting the staking of claims by officials was changed, practically changed, and the hon. member for Pictou undertook to deliver to the House and to myself particularly, a lecture upon the spirit of the law and the spirit in which the law had been administered in former years. He read a clause of the Dominion Lands Act to show what the law was in that respect in regard to the Dominion lands, and he explained the honourable position of the Department of the Interior and the spirit in which the law had been administered by the late Government for years past. I do not object to being lectured once in a while—I do not object to being lectured even by a man who does not know, perhaps as much about the subject as I do—but when the hon. member for Pictou undertakes to tell me how the public domain in the west has been administered, the only conclusion is, that the hon. gentleman has been asleep for the last eighteen years. Does he mean to tell me that the officials of the late Government have not dealt in that domain for the last eighteen years, that they have not speculated in it? There is a prominent Dominion official in the town in which I lived, who took up a homestead, a valuable property, a few miles distant, and upon a colourable performance of the duties—there was no settlement, and he was not a farmer—he got his patent under the Government of the hon. gentlemen opposite. I will send the name over to hon. gentlemen opposite, and I will bring down the paper on file in my department, if they will move for them; but after they have read them they will wish they had not moved for them. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say, that the spirit of the law, as they administered it, was that the men making the law, and the men administering the law, should not

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ing the law, should not

lie in the public property? Does the
gentleman forget the grants of public
of public property, that for years were
to the friends and intimates of the
ernment notoriously? Does the hon.
ember for Pictou forget that the name of
own brother, Mr. Stuart Tupper, that
name of Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, the
of the late Sir John Macdonald, appear-
in connection with these transactions?
as the hon. gentleman forget the grant of
made in the Prince Albert district, the
ult of which was the driving of those
ers into rebellion? I think he must
e been asleep for the last eighteen years,
he does not know how the public prop-
y of this country has been administered,
if he wants to know how it has been
administered, I will give him the statement
one of his own political friends. This
leman says:

any should I be singled out for public cen-
sure—

This is Mr. John Charles Rykert.

When there are dozens of members in the
House who not only have applied for and
ed limits for themselves, but sit there daily
money into their own pockets, I cannot
stand.

is the spirit of the law, as adminis-
by hon. gentlemen opposite. Now I
get down to particulars to show you
the practice was. I sent to the Yu-
the mining regulations of hon. gentle-
opposite. So far as the staking of
as by officials was concerned, there was
change whatever made by me in the reg-
ulations, in the letter, or spirit, or practice
of these regulations. It has been dinged
into the ears of the people of this
country for the last six months, that such
a thing as Government officials staking
a mining claim was never heard of until
my batch of Grit officials got to Dawson
City. Let us see; records are sometimes
inconvenient things. My batch of Grit offi-
cials got to Dawson City in February, 1898.
Who was the first Government official who
staked a claim in the Yukon district? Would
hon. gentlemen opposite like to know? I
will tell them. The man who first staked
a mining claim, as a Government official,
was Captain Charles Constantine, the min-
ing recorder appointed by hon. gentlemen
opposite, and it was done in January, 1896,
six months before this Government took
office. It was done under the law, and reg-
ulations, and practice which were inaugu-
rated by the hon. gentlemen opposite. Can
they understand that? Mr. Constantine was
an officer under the late Government. He was
acting in pursuance of the instructions he
got, and he was within the law, and he was
within his rights. The Government had no
right to say that he was wrong, because he
had never been told not to do it. He staked
claims in January, 1896, and he was
mining recorder himself at that time. I

do not think hon. gentlemen can find that
Thomas Fawcett or Mr. Senkler, the Gold
Commissioner, ever recorded any claims in
their own names. More than that, Mr.
Speaker, Captain Constantine recorded
something like twenty-two claims in the
name of other men in the employ of the
Government. The practice of recording
mining claims by men in the employ of the
Government was in full swing, uncheck-
ed and unnoted, before this Government
came into office. Mr. Wade, one of the
officials whom I sent up there, came to
me, when I was standing on the quarter-
deck of the "Quadra," on the way to Skag-
way, and said to me: "I do not think it
is likely that I will have any time to stake
claims; but if I should desire to do so, is
there anything in the law to prevent me
doing it?" I thought for a minute, and
then said: "You are not an officer con-
nected with the administration of the min-
ing law in any way; you have nothing to
do with the registration of mining claims
in any way, shape or form, directly or in-
directly, and I do not see anything that will
prevent you staking claims." This is the
only conversation I ever had with Mr. Wade
on the subject, and I never had any other
conversation with any other officer on the
subject at all, and never gave any instruc-
tions. When I was speaking, I was speak-
ing upon the regulations. Last winter we
had down here from Dawson City, Dr. Wills,
surgeon of the Mounted Police, a political
friend of hon. gentlemen opposite. When
he was here, the fact was circulated that
Dr. Wills had staked claims in the Yukon
district. It was a matter of common talk,
and it was referred to in the newspapers,
but we heard no howl from the Conserva-
tive press of this country about the iniquity
of Government officials staking claims, not
a syllable. There was no harm in it until
Mr. Wade, a Liberal official, staked a claim.
That is when the enormity arose. I do not
stand here to say that it is desirable that
Government officials should stake claims; I
put my name to a recommendation to Coun-
cil to say they shall not. I have done that
as the result of experience; I am not like
the hon. gentleman, I am not too proud to
learn by experience. And, Sir, if I am in
fault in any way whatever, and if my col-
leagues are in fault in any way whatever, it
is not for deteriorating the public service
of this country, but it is for not having fore-
sight enough to remedy the evil which was
done by gentlemen on the other side of the
House. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert
Tupper) has made the charge—the hon. mem-
ber for York (Mr. Foster) vigorously sec-
onding him—that we did nothing in Dawson
City for sanitation, that we did nothing to
help anybody. Now, I am going to give the
hon. gentleman something to look up and I
will give him a week to look it up. I want
him to find for me and to cite it in this
House, a case in the North-west Territories,

where there had been no time for the establishment of a local administration, of any town where the Federal Government ever did anything for sanitation. I want him to cite me just one such case if he can. We have been opening up new places in Canada for a great many years, and I want him to find just one place where, before the organization of a local governing body, the Federal Government has done anything for sanitation. I will give these hon. gentlemen opposite an illustration of what happened in the town I lived in where the very same thing happened—only the conditions were not nearly so aggravated—as in Dawson. When the town of Brandon was opened up, four thousand or five thousand people suddenly planted themselves on the side of a hill; the ladies stayed in the house and the men walked around in top boots, up to their knees in mud for a considerable length of time. We did not growl about the neglect of the Government; we did not want the Federal Government to put down sidewalks and take sanitary measures, but we met and formed a town committee and with our own money put down sidewalks for ourselves. That is what every place has done under the same circumstances. I would like the hon. gentlemen to hunt up a case where anything else has been done, except in the case of this very Dawson City. Here are the amounts which have been spent, according to our last returns, for assistance of various kinds at Dawson:

Paid for work on Bonanza Creek trail..	\$4,000
Donation to hospital	5,000
Fire engine, Dawson.....	2,500
Did the hon. gentlemen opposite ever buy a fire engine for any town in the North-west Territories? If they did I would like them to cite the case.	
Donation to the hospital	\$2,500
Other donation to hospital.....	1,000
do do	1,000
do do	2,000
Donation to an individual to enable him to leave the Yukon owing to illness....	420
Work on the Bonanza trail.....	200
Another hospital grant.....	2,000
do do	2,000
Repairing roads and bridges, Bonanza Creek	80
Contribution to the fire brigade.....	1,000
Hospital at Grand Forks.....	850
Another hospital donation.....	183
Treatment of indigent patients.....	345

When did these hon. gentlemen opposite pay for medical treatment in the North-west Territories?

Another advance to an hospital	\$3,000
Small amount for relief	18
Small amount for work in connection with the fire.....	18
Voted by the Council to fit up part of the buildings for an almshouse	2,000
Another hospital grant.....	627
Treatment of indigent patients.....	155
Another grant to hospital.....	440
Indigent patients	375
do	5,000

Care of indigent persons.....	\$ 940
do do	50
do do	7,000

Altogether, for relief, for works practically of charity and local help, there has been spent up to the present time, no less a sum than \$44,183. Let the hon. gentlemen look up their records and show me where they ever made the faintest pretense of doing anything of the kind, and then it will be time for them to come here and talk to us about neglect. I have no record of the exact amount of relief that was given by the Mounted Police, but the Mounted Police upon the trail practically fed every one who came along and who had not food. That has been apparently a necessity of the situation and I have not felt like giving orders to the contrary. But at the present time I intend, when the spring opens, to give orders that hereafter people will have to feed themselves, and the police will stop giving out provisions, as there is no excuse for people being there, after the first month of spring without being in a condition to take care of themselves; except, of course, in the ordinary case of persons who are destitute. Up to the present time, people have made it a business—and there seems to have been nothing to prevent it—of preying upon the police for supplies, and so in addition to the amounts I have read the police have given a very large amount for relief. I beg to say further, that according to the estimates of Mr. Ogilvie which have been provided for by his council, similar assistance for local improvements and relief for the six months from the 1st of January, 1899, to the 30th June, 1899, will be no less a sum than \$83,563, most of which will be provided for out of local revenue.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who are the people that we are treating medically, who are the people that we are feeding? Who are the people that we are housing? Are they Canadians; are they our own citizens? Not a bit of it; nine out of ten of them are foreigners—men who went there when we advised them not to go. I issued an emphatic warning last fall; I pointed out what would be the result of a great many of these people going there. And the Secretary of the Interior of the United States did the same thing. But they went there notwithstanding; every man thinks, of course, that whoever else gets killed or whoever else gets into trouble he will come back all right. However, the people went in and they are there. There are hundreds, I was almost going to say thousands of men who have spent all they had in that country, and who are not able to take care of themselves. We have been feeding and caring for and furnishing hospital accommodation for these men, foreigners who simply went in there because they wanted to carry away Canadian gold, and having no regard for us and having no regard for our institutions. I will venture to say that there has never been a district opened up on this continent

where as much has been done by the Government for the people as has been done for the people in the Yukon district by the Federal Government of Canada. We fed these people when they had nothing to eat. We sent police out to hunt for them when they were lost. We did everything for them, except to find for each one a good paying claim, and four-fifths of this row is because we did not do that. Now, I must apologize for speaking so long.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

This explanation has only got to be given once, and it might as well be given first as last while we are at it. The officers of the district have been attacked on account of what is known as the water front transaction. I will give the House the particulars of it. Mr. Wade, after going to Dawson, consulted with Mr. Fawcett, and they came to the conclusion, according to the statement given to me, that the occupation of a certain piece of the water front was inadvisable, for sanitary reasons. The people were camped along on a narrow strip of the water front; and the House will understand, without further explanation, that that was not a desirable state of things. Mr. Wade and Mr. Fawcett called for tenders for a lease of this water front upon certain conditions. There were no newspapers at the time, but they went out word to the leading men of the town, inviting them to tender. They received the following tenders: W. Burk, yearly rental of \$3,000, payable quarterly; M. L. D. Geizer, offered an annual rental of \$120 for each 25 feet, and on the same date made an offer of \$7,500 yearly; Drumsore, Spencer & McPhee offered a rental of \$25,000 a year, payable monthly, in advance; John Cameron offered a monthly rental of \$2,050; Morrison & McDonald offered a rent of \$30,000 per annum. Morrison & McDonald's tender being the highest, the land was leased to them. The lease was for one year, with power to the Government or its officer to terminate it on one month's notice. The streets were all permitted to extend through the water front to the river. These are the particulars of that transaction. I do not see any fault on the face of the transaction that is improper. It has been intimated to the House that the men who leased this property immediately turned round and leased portions of it for very much larger sums. That is the ground of attack on Mr. Wade and Mr. Fawcett. Another ground is that the men who were on the land ought to have been permitted to have kept it for nothing. So you may pay your money and take your choice. One ground is, that they did not get enough rent for the land; the other is, that the people who were on it ought to have been permitted to occupy it without paying any rent. If they did not get enough rent, that was not their fault, because they called for tenders, and gave the lease to the highest tenderer. When

Major Walsh went to the Yukon, he confirmed the transaction. I have no knowledge of anything incorrect or improper about it. There is nothing on the face of it to indicate any impropriety. On the contrary, there is everything on the face of it to indicate that it was eminently proper, and what any reasonable man would do under the circumstances to get some revenue for the Government, and to have this piece of ground placed in the hands of tenants who would keep it in proper order. I have letters here, which I will read at a later date, showing the terms of the lease, and they show that sidewalks were to be erected on the ground and proper sanitary precautions taken. Mr. Wade, I may say, emphatically and positively denies that there was the least shadow of impropriety in any shape or form about the transaction, and he challenges anybody to call him before Mr. Ogilvie and have investigated any charge that may be made against him in connection with it. In one of the statements which was read by the hon. member for Pictou, it was stated that Judge Maguire had an interest in this transaction. Of Judge Maguire I will speak at a later date; but, in the meantime, I may state that after the hon. gentleman had made his speech I telegraphed to Judge Maguire in regard to the matter, and I have his answer, as follows:

West Prince Albert, April 1.

I have never had any interest whatever, directly or indirectly, in water front lease at Dawson.

THOS. H. MAGUIRE.

The House will note, Mr. Speaker, that the lease contained a provision that it should be terminable at one month's notice; and if the officers saw, after the lease had been granted, that what was alleged was actually taking place, that the tenants were getting \$120,000 a year, and were only paying \$30,000, they could cancel the lease at a month's notice, and they would have promptly done so. The lease came into force on the 9th of April. Mr. Ogilvie arrived back at Dawson, I think, in the latter part of September; and if Mr. Ogilvie, on the ground, thought the lease was not in the public interest, he had the power to cancel it at a month's notice; but up to the present time, he has not advised me that he has cancelled it. So my impression is that Mr. Ogilvie has come to the conclusion that the lease was in the public interest. As to the policy of the matter, whether the lease was advisable or not, no one in this House can tell. I cannot tell, nor can any of my colleagues tell. Only those on the ground can tell.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). May I ask the hon. gentleman if he will put the lease of this water front on the Table of the House?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Will it answer the hon. gentleman's purpose if I do so to-morrow when the House meets?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No, it would not quite as well.

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I will do so when I cease speaking to-night. The papers are all here.

Now if the House will permit me, I am going to examine a few of the statements made by the hon. member for Pictou's witnesses. First, Major Caddell said: That three men had staked claims, and applied to record them, and were told to come back in two or three days, and when they did go back they found that the claims had been recorded by somebody else. I have already stated that in my judgment that does not afford the slightest evidence that there was any crookedness in connection with the matter. They could readily have gone to the Gold Commissioner and entered a protest, and had their protest tried like anybody else.

Dr. Leblanc is cited as another witness by the hon. member for Pictou. I presume the hon. member is quoting from an interview with Dr. Leblanc, which appeared in a Montreal paper. He stated that he had staked a claim on Bonanza Creek and lost it because he did not stand in with the officials. After Dr. Leblanc came back from the Yukon, he came to my private secretary's office, and sent word by my private secretary to me, not that he wished to see me, but to know if I wanted to see him. I asked my private secretary if he had any business with me, and he told me that Dr. Leblanc said he had no business with me, but wanted to know if I wanted to see him. I instructed my private secretary that if he had no business with me, I did not want to see him. He did not enter any complaint or suggest any complaint; and I desire to know what weight the members of this House attach to a statement of a man who, when he comes back from the Yukon district, says he staked a valuable claim on Bonanza Creek, and lost it because he did not stand in with the officials, and then comes to the office of the Minister who has the power to right the wrong, if there was a wrong, and does not take the trouble to say that there was a wrong, or to lodge a complaint of any sort.

Would any body pay any attention to a statement of that kind. If he lost a claim, why did he not say so? They must be a very extraordinary lot of people who have gone to the Yukon district. I have lived in the west a great many years, and out there, if any body undertook to defraud any one of his property, the one defrauded would very soon make a complaint; and if any man undertakes to defraud another of a homestead in the North-west Territories, what is the result. You will find a pile of papers that high, you will find that officer after officer, clerk after clerk, commissioner after commissioner, Minister after Minister has to invest that homestead matter. That is the history of the Department of the Interior. But here we are told that we should believe the evidence of a man who coolly

goes to a newspaper office and says he was beaten out of a valuable claim by the officials and who never stated in the Minister's office that he had lost his claim or made any complaint whatever. Mr. Leblanc said that Mrs. Dubois lost a claim by another person taking it up while she was waiting for a survey, and that one J. S. Murdock got it registered. So far as that is concerned, if that be the case, all that Mrs. Dubois has to do is to walk into Mr. Ogilvie's office and prove those facts and she will get her claim at once. And I have to say that Mrs. Dubois and the rest of the public in Dawson City have been notified to do that very thing, and if she has not done it, it is her own fault, not mine or the fault of the Government. Mr. Ogilvie was sent his commission, and here is a copy of the notice which he issued:

PUBLIC NOTICE.

To All Whom It may Concern:

By Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Canada I have been appointed Her Majesty's Commissioner to investigate and inquire into certain matters and things in such letters patent referred to. The scope of the investigation will appear from the preamble as follows:—

Whereas it appears from a report from Our Minister of the Interior of Canada that he had under consideration a communication dated at Dawson, Yukon Territory, 25th August, 1898, addressed to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, signed by G. T. C. Armstrong, as chairman, Percy McDougall, secretary, and a number of other persons professing to have been duly appointed a miners' committee at a mass meeting of the miners of the Yukon Territory, in which communication it is alleged that many of the Government officials have forfeited their claim to the people's confidence and respect by their conduct and action in certain matters. Our said Minister further observes that the committee alleges that the Gold Commissioner's office is practically closed, and has been for a considerable time to the miners who had not the means and desire to bribe the clerks in order to obtain knowledge of the record which ought to be public. It is further charged that wholesale information with regard to unrecorded ground is conveyed to certain individuals outside the office who obtain men to stake and record the ground in consideration of an interest in the same. Our Minister further stated that it is charged that dissatisfaction has arisen with respect to decisions in claim contests, particularly owing to the Crown prosecutor, who, while retained as advocate by one of the contestants, was giving legal advice to the Gold Commissioner. The Dominion Lands agent is openly charged with serious breaches of trust and malfeasance in office, and some of the officials connected with the recorder's office are alleged to be incompetent. Our said Minister further submits that it is stated in the communication that hardships have been caused to many of the claim owners owing to the want of experience of the mining inspectors. The committee further represents that the Crown timber agent has granted such concessions and laid down such stringent regulations that only a few parties have the privilege of supplying cord-wood this coming winter.

I may say, and the House will be surprised to learn, that the complaint about the cord-

d says he was
m by the offi-
the Minister's
claim or made
Leblanc said
m by another
e was waiting
J. S. Murdock
that is concern-
at Mrs. Dubois
Ogilvie's office
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say that Mrs.
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CE.

Great Seal of
Her Majesty's
Inquire into cer-
n letters patent
investigation will
follows:—

report from Our
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August, 1898, ad-
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ed by G. T. C.
McDougall, sec-
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of the Yukon
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out the cord-

ood was made because Major Walsh issued
an order forbidding the granting of any con-
cessions within six miles of Dawson, and
this he did in order that the people in Daw-
son would have all the timber within six
miles of it for their supply. The order was
made for their own benefit:

On account of this and other reasons set forth
the communication referred to, a copy of which
hereto attached, the committee ask for the
appointment of a commission of inquiry.

And whereas we deem it expedient that inquiry
under oath should be made with respect to the
truth or untruth of the foregoing charges, state-
ments and complaints.

Public notice is hereby given that on Monday,
the 6th day of February, 1899, at the hour of 11
o'clock in the forenoon, I will sit in the Court
house in Dawson, for the purpose of fixing a
time within which charges coming within the
scope of the letters patent are to be laid before
me, and let all persons desirous of prosecuting
any such charges then appear and they shall be
heard either in person or by counsel, as they may
prefer.

After the expiration of the time to be fixed for
laying charges before me I shall proceed to fix
a time and place for the investigation of such
charges, of which time and place due and public
notice will be given.

Witness my hand and seal at Dawson this 25th day of January,
1899.

WM. OGILVIE,

Commissioner.

Mr. Dubois has lost her claim, as Dr.
Leblanc says she has, all she has to do is to
walk in to Mr. Ogilvie's court and make her
statement, and she will get her claim if she
can prove the facts to be true. I do not see
that any further action can be required of
the Government.

Now, I want to take up another statement
made by the hon. member for Pictou, and
which I think affected the House in a cer-
tain way more than any other statement he
made. Upon page 796 of "Hansard," the
hon. gentleman quoted from a gentleman
whose name, like most of those whom he
quoted, was not given, and what I propose
to do is this: I propose to take up the al-
legations of the corrupt acts, where I have
any positive means of getting at the truth of
them myself from the records in the office,
and show the House the reliability of these
statements. The first statement I find I
have any means of checking at all—the
means are not absolute, but I place them
before the House as they are—is this with
regard to the water front, made by this
anonymous witness:

It was well understood in Dawson that Mr.
Wade and Major Walsh (and it was said Judge
Maguire) held a half interest in this lease.

I shall read Major Walsh's denial before I
get through; I have already read Judge
Maguire's denial. Mr. Wade has denied it
positively and emphatically, publicly and
otherwise, and has gone back to Dawson
City to appear before the Commissioner.
After handing in his resignation down here.
Now here is the gem, I was going to say, but

It is not—the gem is to come later. This
gentleman says:

These claims—

—Referring to the claims upon Dominion
Creek—

—were sent out—

The House will note the language this gen-
tleman used and which was quoted by the
hon. member for Pictou:

—were sent out by the Gold Commissioner to
be sold in Ottawa, supposedly at private auction,
and Wade himself said, to my knowledge, that
he proposed to get hold of all the unrecorded
claims upon Dominion Creek. If the Government
proceeded to do what they had no right to do,
to deny these prospectors the right of recording
their claims, they should have put the claims up
at public auction, first at Dawson, so as to allow
the men who had developed and improved them
a chance to purchase the same, and not send
them to Ottawa, where they could be disposed of
at private sale to a syndicate working in the in-
terest of Walsh at a nominal figure, which—

Says this veracious gentleman—

—I presume, has been done by this time. Cer-
tain it is that none of these claims have been
sold in Dawson, where, according to law, if any
public sale takes place, they should have been
sold.

Now, so far as the rights of prospectors
are concerned, the rule I have made; upon
the information that has come to me, is
this: That any man who is shown to have
staked a claim upon Dominion Creek before
the order was made closing the creek, will
get his claim; and if, through any cause,
two men came into contest for the same
claim, then the man who has staked a
claim will get one of the reserve claims or
one of the fractions. If he has not staked
a claim before the order was made closing
the creek, he will not get a claim. The
order was made by Major Walsh to reserve
certain claims and fractions, in pursuance
of the policy of the Government, and in ac-
cordance with the regulations. So, Major
Walsh, instead of doing what was stated
here, either sent to me, or brought with him
—I think he brought it down—the record of
the claims and fractions upon Dominion
Creek; and they were brought here for the
purpose of being recorded as Government
property, that they might be sold, not for
the benefit of Walsh or Wood, but for the
benefit of the public exchequer. Mr. Speak-
er, you can form some idea of what the evi-
dence of a witness is worth, when he makes
a statement such as I have read. If a man
went into the witness-box and deliberately
made statements that he presumed a rascal-
ly transaction had been carried out, with-
out the least knowledge as to whether it had
been or not—impugning the character of a
man without the slightest evidence, what
possible importance could be attached to his
statements? Now, I will close this by read-
ing the departmental letter, which shows
what was actually done. Major Walsh came

back and made his report. In that report, as printed, it will be found that he referred to what was done on Dominion Creek. On the 5th October, 1898, I wrote the following letter to Mr. Ogilvie:—

Ottawa, 5th October, 1898.

Dear Mr. Ogilvie,—

I have spent to-day in consultation with Major Walsh, your predecessor in office, and have gone carefully into the Dominion Creek matter. I am writing you now for the purpose of saying that so far as I can judge I fully approve of his action in reserving the fractions and other claims which have been reserved upon Dominion Creek. These fractions and claims so reserved have been held in lieu of the alternate claims which should have been reserved to the Government, but were not so reserved, owing to difficulties in recording. The claims and fractions reserved will be held for disposal by the Government in such manner as may be deemed advisable. My present idea in regard to the disposal of these claims is, that inasmuch as they are said to be extremely valuable, they should be advertised in London, New York, different cities in Canada, and in Dawson City, and that they should be sold by public tender to be received and opened by yourself in Dawson City some time next spring. I shall be glad to have your views upon this question at your convenience.

For the purpose of checking over the list of the Dominion Creek claims, which Major Walsh brought down, I think it will be desirable for you to send down a plan and certified list of all claims. Major Walsh expressed a fear that there might possibly be a mistake in the papers he brought down.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) CLIFFORD SIFTON.

The House will judge. I have given the facts. The statement of the hon. member for Pictou's witness is, that claims were sent down here that they might be boodled in by Major Walsh.

Then, Mr. Speaker, this same veracious witness goes on to make a statement about a woman named Nellie Cashman, and another named Belle Mulrooney. It appears that Miss Cashman had difficulty in getting a claim recorded, and it is alleged that she made some improper arrangement, and that Captain Norwood, an officer of the Government, was a party to it. And a similar statement, not exactly the same, but an allegation of impropriety, is made in connection with the claim of one Talmadge. These two statements are made by the same anonymous witness as the one making the statement which I have just shown to be untrue. I have no means of knowing whether the statements to which I now refer are true or not. But I have this to say: That if the hon. member for Pictou wanted an investigation, all he had to do was to send the letter to Mr. Ogilvie, and we would have had a report showing whether the charge was true or not. I have to say, further, that Captain Norwood is there, so that, as far as he is concerned, the matter can be investigated. Moreover, in view of the statements made about other people by this same anonymous witness, I should not think that there is much

probability that it will be found that there is very much in this statement of his. At the same time, I do not say that it is not true. I have no means of knowing. Then, Mr. Speaker, we have what I call the gem of the testimony which the hon. gentleman has offered before this House. Although it is in some respects objectionable, I presume to read it. He goes on to speak of a dispute in regard to a claim between a man named Donnelley, and a man named Nelson, who had for a partner a woman named Lucille Elliott. He gives the particulars of this, which hon. members can read, and then he goes on to say:

They had no other proof to bring, and rested their point. Judge Maguire stated that unless Lucille and Andy could bring positive proof of the staking of the claim, he would advise Mr. Fawcett to non-suit the case—that is to say, dismiss it for want of any proof on behalf of the plaintiff. The case was then adjourned for one week. That night, about 11 o'clock, Lucille Elliott came up to Major Walsh's tent; he had retired; she remained until morning and was sent up the river about 8 o'clock in Major Walsh's canoe, accompanied by his private secretary, and rowed by the Government policemen. Lucille Elliott continued her nightly visits to Major Walsh during the continuance of the trial, which, it is needless to state, was decided in Lucille's favour. Major Walsh, at the time of his notorious liaison with Lucille, was the Commissioner of the Yukon, with full powers to remove Mr. Fawcett, and to reverse his decisions and acts. And after the case was decided, Donnelley was notified indirectly that if he would not appeal the case he (Major Walsh) would see that he received a grant for a claim down on Lower Dominion Creek.

So, the statement is, that Major Walsh, as commissioner, had power to reverse the decision of Mr. Fawcett, that Major Walsh influenced Fawcett to give an unrighteous decision in favour of this woman, and that this woman, by her improper relations—that is the plain implication—with Major Walsh, induced Major Walsh to exercise that power. Mr. Speaker, the witness seems to forget that, in the first paragraph, he says the case was tried by Judge Maguire. So, the allegation, when it is sifted, is, that the woman influenced Major Walsh, and that Major Walsh influenced Judge Maguire to give an unrighteous decision in favour of this claim. Now, Judge Maguire would not have been any the worse man, if he had been appointed by this Government. But he was not appointed by this Government, but by the late Government. And I differ from the hon. member for Pictou in regard to the character of Judge Maguire. I think he is a most estimable man, a man of high character. I appeal to this House, I appeal to the members from the North-west Territories, to say the estimation in which Judge Maguire is held in the North-west Territories, and as a judge of the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories. He sits there now, and I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, if it is in accordance with the proper practice of this

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Parliament that a statement of that kind about a Superior Court judge should be read in this House unless the man who reads it is prepared to back it up. What are the facts? To-morrow at three o'clock I will lay the papers in this case upon the Table of this House. The facts are these: There were two certificates issued by Mr. Fawcett for the same ground. Dominion Creek was staked from what they called Lower Discovery, and also from Upper Discovery. The parties came in and applied for certificates; one was granted upon a claim staked one way, and another granted on the same claim staked the other way. The result was that they overlapped. The ground between the two discoveries had been exhausted, they overlapped, and there were two certificates granted for this particular claim. A protest was entered, the matter came before Mr. Fawcett for decision. Mr. Fawcett said it was a complicated case, and he called in Judge Maguire. The case was tried before Judge Maguire in due form of law. He heard the evidence and heard counsel on both sides. Apparently there was no official ring, because Mr. Wade was on the opposite side from this woman, he was for Mr. Donnelley in this case, and he argued it as well as he could. Judge Maguire gave a long and exhaustive written judgment in favour of this woman and her partner. Mr. Fawcett decided the case upon Judge Maguire's judgment, and signed it as Gold Commissioner. They appealed the case. Mr. Donnelley, apparently was in a position to fight for his rights. The case was appealed to me at Ottawa. Mr. Samuel H. Blake was retained to argue the case for Donnelley, and to see that he was not defrauded of his rights. I saw it was an important case, it was the first appeal coming before me, and as there were precedents to be made, and rules to be laid down as to what kind of evidence should be admitted, I called in the Minister of Justice, Hon. David Mills, and the Secretary of State, Hon. Mr. Scott, two lawyers of long experience, both as public men and as administrators. We heard the case in open court in the Railway Committee room upstairs, and the Minister of Justice, the Secretary of State and myself unanimously decided that Judge Maguire's judgment was right. I will lay the papers in this case upon the Table of the House to-morrow, and any hon. gentleman can read them for himself, and decide for himself. I say that no member of this House can conceive of a more outrageous accusation, a more outrageous proceeding than to read any such insinuation as that. Why did not the hon. gentleman write a note to me to ask if there was any ground for supposing that Judge Maguire had given an unrighteous decision? Surely that would not be much trouble for an ex-Minister of Justice, a man who knows his responsibility to Parliament and what is due a judge. Surely, before making such a charge against a judge, it would have been wise for the hon. gentleman to send a clerk

to the department to look up the papers, to see what the record was, to know something about it, at least, before making such a statement in the House. But nothing of that kind was done, and he reads an anonymous statement from a man, which bears upon its face, in the mind of any lawyer accustomed to read and analyse statements of facts, the plainest evidence of utter carelessness and recklessness, because any one knowing anything about departmental business would know that the man making that statement could not have known anything about the truth of what he was alleging. Yet the member for Pictou makes that statement without the least analysis or inquiry, and places it before this House, to stand upon "Hansard" against Judge Maguire to the last day of his life. Who can say that the man who reads that statement upon "Hansard" ten years from now, will read my reply at the same time? When you put such an allegation as that upon the "Hansard" of the House of Commons attacking a man's character, you are doing a very serious thing. Then there is another thing.

We are charged with outrageously underpaying our officials, that we sent a lot of men up there and gave them starvation pay, and consequently we could not expect them to be honest. Well, Sir, here is the list, and here are the salaries. I think the salaries are good. Mr. Ogilvie, the Commissioner, gets \$5,000. When he was employed by the late Government, he got \$1,800. W. H. P. Clement, legal adviser, gets \$2,500; Mr. Bliss, clerk of the Commissioner's staff, gets \$900, and his salary increases to \$1,200. Another clerk has \$900, another clerk \$1,200. Mr. Senkler, Gold Commissioner, gets \$4,000, the salary of a judge in the Court of Queen's Bench for Ontario. Then there are a number of clerks whose salaries run from \$900 to \$1,200. The registrar gets \$2,000; the abstract clerk gets \$1,200; the controller, Mr. Lithgow, gets \$1,500; I think he only got \$1,000 or \$1,100 formerly. Mr. Snell, a clerk in the controller's office, gets \$1,200. The head land agent gets \$1,800, another clerk in his office gets \$1,500; timber inspector, \$1,200; three clerks in Crown Timber office, \$900 each. The cook gets \$1,200, and the assistant cook, \$720. Now, be it known that the Government furnishes for these men both quarters and provisions. The most of these men were never as well off in their lives before, financially, as they are now. I do not find fault with that; I think they ought to be better off than they were before, because most of them are living away from their families, and endure considerable hardship and privation. We have made them a little better off than they were in the respective positions from which they came. There is no ground whatever for the suggestion that our officials are underpaid. Now I will prove that in this way. The officials there, the heads of the department, have hired a number of clerks in addition to the ones we sent up, and they are all getting about one-

third less pay than the men we sent up ; so that we are paying at least one-third more than that labour is worth in the open market in Dawson. I think that fact conclusively disposes of the charge that we underpay the officials. My hon. friend the member for Pictou said that we had treated Judge Maguire abominably, that he was dreadfully ill-used. The member for Pictou does not agree with the judge in that respect, because I have in my office a letter from Judge Maguire, thanking me and thanking the Government for the great kindness and consideration which had been shown to him during his period of service in the Yukon district.

Now, I am going to take up another witness of my hon. friend the member for Pictou. It is tedious, but we will go through the whole of them and see what their evidence is worth. I have gone through his statement and I find something specific, something that we can get hold of, something that we can check, and see what his evidence is worth. This is one of the anonymous statements, and, Mr. Speaker, mark this, because one has to follow it closely in order to get at the gravamen of the charge. This man, speaking of the lease of the waiver front, says :

According to the terms of this lease, the lessees did not have to pay rent to the Government for any of the water front until the same was occupied by their lessees, thus incurring no responsibility whatever.

Of course, if an officer of the Government had made a lease of that kind he would either be a fool or a knave ; there is no doubt about that. There could not be the least question about that ; he would be either a fool or a knave, because to put himself under contract to somebody else, without payment being provided for until the rent is collected, would not be a business transaction, and he would be either a fool or knave. Perhaps that language is too strong, but it would not be a business-like transaction. But, Mr. Speaker, there is not a word of truth in it. The papers are here ; I will lay them on the Table of the House, and the lease is there. The lease is by letter, and there is not a solitary word of truth in the statement. I cannot take all the statements that these men make ; of course there are many that are mere flourishes, mere diatribes—"Mall and Empire" editorials and Ottawa "Citizen" editorials ; but here and there we come across a statement that we can get hold of. Of course, we cannot check them all ; I have not the information, but I have the information to check some of them, and I am bound to say that in regard to any of them in which I have the papers I am in a position to show that they are untrue. This same unnamed gentleman who made that statement which was shown to be untrue, says that he is informed that Mr. Wade received \$1,500 for giving somebody—he does not say whom—the exclusive privilege of

maintaining a booth in the Klondike. He says that he was so informed. The man who makes this statement is the man who makes the statement that I have shown to be absolutely untrue. Of course we are unable to check his statement that he was informed by somebody else whose name was not given that Mr. Wade was bribed. But I would like to ask my hon. friend who is going to follow me, the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), what importance he would attach to evidence of that kind.

There is another witness, Mr. Woodworth. Mr. Woodworth writes a long letter ; he does not deal in specific statements, there is nothing that one can get hold of definitely, but he is very violent in his abuse of me and generally of the policy of the Government. The hon. member for Pictou was not in a position to give any information as to who Mr. Woodworth was, and apparently he had not taken any trouble to inquire. He just brings in Mr. Woodworth's letter and reads it, apparently without making any inquiry as to whether this man was a reliable man or a man of character or repute. I think that when an hon. gentleman comes in and asks Parliament to act upon the statement of somebody, he ought to take some little pains to find out what kind of a man it is whom he cites as his authority. He has given us the statements of a lot of men whose names he has not mentioned, and he wants us to take their statements because he says he made inquiry and found them to be reliable. Now, we have a man here whose name is given, and I am going to give the result of the inquiry which I have made as to whether this man is reliable or not. I find one statement here, and I want to call the attention of the House to the fact that this gentleman is a lawyer, and in speaking about a legal matter, he cannot be excused for not telling what is true. We will check up this gentleman ; we will check up his reliability on a question of fact, and see what his evidence is worth. The acknowledged method of dealing with a witness is to take his statements one by one and see whether what he tells is true or not. We have not time to check up all this gentleman's statements one by one, but I have them here. Of course, he calls our officials inefficient, but this is a matter of opinion ; it is not a question of fact. He says :

A Mr. Thiel—

The name is Snell ; he is the clerk of the court, and Thiel is apparently a misprint.

—is clerk of the court, but, being without legal training, he is incompetent to take examinations, tax costs and do all that is required of a clerk of court.

There is a straight statement that a man who is clerk of the court is not efficient. Now, I have here an application from Mr. Snell, who is the same man, to Mr. Ogilvie, that he might be permanently appointed as

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clerk of the court, a position, according to Mr. Woodworth, he is not fit to fill, and which he is filling. This application to Mr. Ogilvie has been forwarded to me, and it is accompanied by a copy sent by Mr. Ogilvie to me, of the following certificate:—

We, the undersigned members of the Bar of the Territorial Court of the Yukon Territory, beg to recommend Mr. W. H. Snell for the position of territorial clerk. Mr. Snell has filled this position most acceptably for some months past, and we most heartily and cordially endorse his application.

This is signed by a whole list of the members of the bar from Dawson City, amongst others, Mr. C. W. C. Tabor, a well-known Conservative gentleman, known, no doubt, to some men in the House; and signed amongst others—unfortunately for the member for Pictou—by Mr. Arthur G. Smith, late Deputy Attorney General of British Columbia, and now, I am informed, a partner of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Later on, we have a lengthy indictment of the whole administration of the district, and everything, from first to last, is outrageously wrong, according to this gentleman. The name is not given, but it is said by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that this gentleman writes what is called an official letter to a business way, and that is what is quoted as an abstract from this business letter. I will not bother the House by reading it, but I must say to this House, that if any man in this House will read that letter, he must conclude that the reason why this man wrote that letter was because he was dissatisfied with the royalty. That was the only reason why he wrote it; the letter proves that; it is the burden of his song throughout. This gentleman attacks viciously the administration. Will the House believe that this general diatribe against the administration, in which Major Walsh is denounced as a fraud, was written on the 14th of June, only twenty-three days after Major Walsh got to Dawson City? Of what value can that be as a criticism of the administration of Major Walsh?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Do I understand the hon. Minister to say, that Mr. Woodworth's letter was dated in June?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Not Mr. Woodworth's letter; I got through with that. I was speaking of the letter which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) will see quoted in the speech as having been written by a gentleman on official business; the name is not given.

Mr. Borden (Halifax). What page of "Hansard"?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The hon. gentleman will find the

date given by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) as the 14th of June, at page 824 of the "Hansard." As I said, that is twenty-three days after Major Walsh got in. He would hardly have had time to recover from the fatigues of his journey and look around the town and see what was going on. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have got through the list of witnesses, if they can be called such, that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has presented to this House. I have not been able to check all the statements that he made, but it will be noticed that one witness repeats much the same thing, as did another in regard to certain things. Then, there are general paragraphs of denunciation, which we cannot check, and which we have no means of finding out anything about, as they are mere statements of opinion. I have gone through these statements, and I have picked out the specific statements where I had any means of checking up the accuracy of the witnesses, and, Sir, I have shown that, in every case where I have had any means of checking the accuracy, the statements are wrong and totally unfounded. I venture now to say, that the oldest member of this House will have difficulty in finding any speech that has ever been placed before the House of Commons of Canada in which statements were placed before the House for the purpose of influencing the House, where so many of the statements have been found to be totally untrue. There are three or four cases which I have no means of knowing anything about: cases in which it is said men or women had to give an interest to officials to get their claims recorded. All I have to say is, that if the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had had the least desire to have these matters investigated, to have Parliament informed of the facts—not by mere ex-parte anonymous charges—but if he had the desire that Parliament should know whether these things were true or not, why did he not write a letter to Mr. Ogilvie, when my deputy wrote to him, asking him to send the information. If he had it, so that it might be within our power to investigate it. If he could not trust me, if he could not trust the right hon. the Prime Minister, if he could not trust Mr. Ogilvie, for fear Mr. Ogilvie might suppress it, why did not the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) write to one of the two or three private detectives which he has in Dawson City, and in two or three weeks we would have a report, and we would not be talking about hearsay, on which we can form no opinion as to whether there is any foundation for it or not.

Mr. Speaker, I forgot to mention one matter. Mr. Woodworth wrote a long letter. I hesitate to attack anybody's character, and I am not going to attack Mr. Woodworth's character; but the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has brought to this House a statement signed by Mr. Woodworth, in which Mr. Wood-

worth makes unequalled attacks upon the character of men who have hitherto had a good character. It was due to this House that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) should have inquired into the character of Mr. Woodworth and his reliability and credibility, before he read the letter, and it was due to the Government, and it was due to our officials, that I should make some inquiries and inform the House as well as I can as to what is known of this gentleman. Well, I have not been able to find out much. I communicated with the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Bostock), in whose constituency Mr. Woodworth lived and practised before he left for Dawson. Mr. Bostock telegraphed to Mr. W. Tomlinson, of New Denver, as follows:—

What was C. M. Woodworth's reputation when at Denver?

And the reply came:

3rd April, 1899.

Hewitt Bostock, M.P., Ottawa.

Not good; very ordinary; doubtful material.

WM. TOMLINSON.

Now, of course, we ought to know about Mr. Tomlinson, as to whether his statement is good or not. And this is what is said about him: "Mr. Tomlinson is a man formerly in the British Army, and for some years back a respected citizen of New Denver. Mr. Bostock has known him several years, and will certify to his character; and the message was sent in order that it might be read in Parliament." I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, I am tiring the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Now, Sir, I have detailed the appointments which we made, and I think I have justified the Government in the action they took in making the various appointments. I have shown, I think, to the satisfaction, not only of members on this side of the House, but—if we could look into their hearts—to most of the members on the other side of the House, that there was no dereliction of duty on the part of the Government in making these appointments; and then I attempted to analyse, as well as I could, the evidence which the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has placed before the House. Now, when attacks were made on the administration—is the Government blamable because it did not act sooner, or is the Government blamable for not having taken the proper course to have an inquiry made in regard to this matter?

I affirm, Mr. Speaker—and I think hon. members of the House will be with me on the point—that until the return of our commissioner, Major Walsh, who was known to be on the way, and until something in the nature of a specific statement that we could take hold of was made, it would have been extremely unwise on the part of the Government to have attempted to hold an inves-

tigation. To attempt to hold an investigation when nobody would make a charge is an extremely unsatisfactory and futile thing; and the investigation at Dawson City promises to be futile, though charges have been made, because the people who have made them have apparently withdrawn them and will not go before the commissioner and attempt to prove them. When we had a commissioner in whom we had perfect confidence, and had not an opportunity to consult him, and when nobody had made anything in the nature of a specific charge, I think the House will say that the Government was certainly not blamable for not having acted sooner.

Miss Shaw's letter in the "Times" came up. It has been said that we ought to have acted instantaneously when that letter appeared. I may be wrong, but I do not take that view. The letter may perhaps have been more injurious to the Government politically because it appeared in the "Times"; but I could see no difference between a statement made by Miss Shaw and sustained by no particular evidence—in fact, by no evidence—and a statement made by any other newspaper correspondent, and backed by no evidence. After the letter of Miss Shaw appeared, the miners' complaint, which the hon. member for Pictou read, came out; and then instantly, as soon as anything in the nature of a complaint was made to the Government, the Government acted. Mr. Ogilvie was notified to proceed with an investigation. A commission was issued to him, and he was notified that the most ample notice must be given to everybody. I have read the notice issued by Mr. Ogilvie, inviting the people of Dawson City and the Yukon district to come forward and make any complaints they had to make. Here is the letter I wrote to Mr. Ogilvie, accompanying the commission, and containing his instructions:

Ottawa, 10th October, 1898.

Dear Sir,—You will receive herewith a commission to investigate charges which have been made by a miners' committee against the administration of Governmental affairs in the Yukon district. This commission has been issued in consequence of the receipt of a formal complaint, a copy of which is attached to the commission. You will at once proceed upon receipt of the commission with the investigation, and you are authorized to notify the persons who have signed the petition, wherever possible, of the time and place and when the inquiry will be opened.

Your legal adviser, Mr. Clement, will give you any professional assistance that may be required in the investigation. You will understand that any person who is charged with malfeasance of office or offence of any kind against the proper administration of the law in any department is entitled, before the hearing of the charges, to due notice of the particulars of the charge, so that he can prepare himself to meet the charge if he so desires.

As to employment of counsel, I will leave you to exercise your own judgment, merely remarking that if the persons preferring the charge desire to appear by counsel I see no objection to such course being followed. In such cases, of

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 and that each and every charge that has been
 made in the mine's petition should be thor-
 oughly investigated, and that you should make
 a definite report, giving your findings upon the
 evidence submitted in support of each charge, re-
 turning your report along with a copy of the
 evidence.

It is absolutely necessary that your report
 should be in my hands before the meeting of
 Parliament, and I shall therefore expect you to
 send it out by special messenger, if necessary,
 as soon as the ice is in condition to permit of
 travel southward from Dawson City.

That is the course which the Government
 took in connection with the investigation. I
 have no report as yet of the result. The
 newspapers contain some reports more or
 less reliable. I have a preliminary note from
 Mr. Ogilvie, saying that the report would be
 forwarded in a short time, and then I will
 lay it on the Table, and the House will know
 as much about it as I.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to another mat-
 ter. I shall be within the judgment
 when I say that the House was
 extremely pained by the references which
 were made to Major Walsh in the speech of
 the hon. member for Pictou. Whether the
 hon. member conceived that those statements
 were true or not, the manner in which they
 were made was certainly most objectionable.

I sent word to Major Walsh at once that
 these statements had been made; I told him
 that I thought he ought to come to Ottawa
 and see the official report of the speech made
 by the hon. member for Pictou. He came
 once, and I gave him the report of the
 speech. He went away and examined it,
 and then wrote the following letter:—

Ottawa, 3rd April, 1899.

Dear Sir,—I have read Sir Hibbert Tupper's
 speech, in which he makes charges against the
 administration of affairs in the Yukon district
 while I was Government Commissioner.

So far as the personal charges against my char-
 acter and administration are concerned, I defy
 Sir Hibbert Tupper to furnish a single particle
 of reliable evidence in support of any one of
 them. I further defy him to produce any person
 who ever saw me under the influence of liquor,
 either in the Yukon or anywhere else. While in
 the Yukon I abstained from the use of spirits
 and also tobacco, and my other habits conformed
 in every way to this abstemious course. During
 my stay in Dawson I lived in a tent surrounded
 by part of the staff and a large number of
 campers. My time was entirely taken up with
 public business, either in my office or in my tent.
 At 9 o'clock in the morning I walked to my
 office, at noon returned to my tent, at 1.30 p.m.
 again went to the office, and at 5 p.m. returned
 to the tent. This was my daily routine, so that I
 passed through the streets of Dawson four times
 every day, Sunday excepted. Every day but Sun-
 day I could be seen by any person who had busi-
 ness with me, except that, of course, people had
 to take their turn in securing interviews. Dur-
 ing my stay in Dawson I only left my camp
 after 6 p.m. three times. While I was in Daw-
 son it was almost continuous daylight, and my
 tent was under full view of every one. Everybody

could see what was going on. My evenings were
 generally taken up with people calling to obtain
 information. I defy any one to truthfully say that
 any improper act ever took place in my camp.
 I challenge and defy any person to prove me
 guilty of any improper act in either my public or
 private life during my period of service in the
 Yukon, or of dealing in or having any interest
 in any mines or Government property of any
 kind.

I engaged with the Government, as you know,
 to go to the Yukon for one year only, although
 my commission did not so state. That was my
 understanding with you. During that time I
 accomplished all that I expected and hoped to
 be able to do. I laboured earnestly and
 conscientiously to the best of my ability
 to do my duty to the Government, and
 returned at the end of the time, bringing nothing
 except the consciousness of having done my best
 to perform a difficult and trying duty. I close
 by repeating that I defy Sir Hibbert Tupper, or
 anybody else, to prove that while I was in the
 Yukon territory, I was ever under the influence
 of liquor or was ever guilty of a single act of
 immorality.

I have the honour to be, sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. M. WALSH.

Sir, the newspapers have been filled with
 interviews condemnatory of the Yukon ad-
 ministration. I am not going to go through
 and examine them, but I am going to point
 out one or two things that have happened in
 that connection which will perhaps indicate
 to some extent the reason why those inter-
 views were so plentiful and so lurid in their
 character. One interview of which the most
 is made was an interview by Captain Con-
 stantine, who was formerly in command of
 the police in the district under the late Gov-
 ernment, and for some time under this Gov-
 ernment. I think I know Captain Constantine
 better than any man on the other side. I
 have known him for seventeen or eighteen
 years. He is a good officer, who, I do not
 think, would do anything contrary to law,
 and am certain he is a reliable, faithful
 officer. He came out from the Yukon dis-
 trict, and an interview with him was pub-
 lished of a most violent condemnatory kind
 with regard to the administration, and much
 was made of that interview. And if it had
 been a genuine interview, the testimony of
 Captain Constantine would be testimony to
 which a great deal of credit should be at-
 tached. But Captain Constantine repudiates
 the whole interview. I will give you another
 illustration. There were two men in the
 city the other day named Deville and
 Mangold. There appeared an interview in a
 newspaper in which they condemned the
 administration in the Yukon district; but I
 have a letter from their solicitor, in which
 they say that they were never interviewed at
 all, but that a drunken reporter—a drunken
 reporter, mark you, Mr. Speaker—followed
 them on the streets to their solicitor's office
 and was ejected from the office, and then
 wrote this interview condemning the Govern-
 ment. This letter is from Mr. Latchford, a re-
 spected and well known solicitor in this city.

I am not going to take up the time of

the House much longer, but I have one more thing to mention. I have a lot of interviews from different people—not the kind that had been so largely circulated by the Opposition press—which explains many things; but as the members of this House have doubtless read them, there is no use in my wasting your time by bringing before you matters that are after all mere matters of opinion. But I am going to read to you from a very important document, an official report which has just been made by Mr. A. N. C. Treadgold, M.A., of Oxford University, who was sent out by the "Mining Journal," of London, as its correspondent for the purpose of making a careful and exhaustive investigation of the district. I saw him when he went out and after he came back. He called at the office in a social way for the purpose of saying a few words and offering information as to what was going on there. He is not an applicant for any concessions from this Government, in any shape or form, directly or indirectly. He is not a man with whom any member of this Government has any connection or over whom any member of this Government has any influence; but he is a man of first-class character and high scientific attainments, who was sent out there on account of special qualifications and for the purpose of making an independent report to the "Mining Journal," of London. All he says is not favourable to the Government, but that is the better evidence that his report is honest and not coloured; and I think it will perhaps give the House the best idea of the state of affairs and explain the different things that have happened in that district better than anything that could possibly be read, because the report is absolutely reliable. This is the part of the report that refers to the Administration. Mr. Treadgold says:

This is not a political pamphlet, but a report of facts observed during my stay in the Yukon, and but for the importance to capital and labour of all questions concerning the administration of the Yukon, I should not dwell on the subject. In general, it is sufficient for miners to know that the Government at Ottawa has shown all willingness to learn all it could about the new and further North-west, that in consequence the administration of the Yukon has steadily improved this summer, in spite of serious necessary difficulties. Any Government which proposed suddenly to impose upon a new country, peopled by mixed immigrants, a full civil organization would need an impossibly excellent set of officials to steer it through its first year or two. How much more is this true of a new country like the Klondike, whose population is split into so many diverse groups with conflicting interests. In one point alone do all men agree in the Klondike—the desire to possess one or many of the great prizes there offered to the individual; and from this desire spring the bitterest differences; for the great prizes are not for all, and A's gain is B's loss, if he chooses so to regard it, even in claim-hunting.

I am going to read the whole so that I cannot be accused of leaving out any part because possibly less favourable to the Administration.

Let us separate some of the groups and interests in order that what I may call the bases of argument may be clearer for future discussion of the Yukon administration. We shall find in the Dawson camp tolerably clearly defined—

1. The old-timers, used in the past to govern themselves, largely Americans, inclined to regard the incoming Canadian civil organization as needless, yet seldom heard on any subject save royalty; on that eloquent as on other "crown reservations."

Even among old-timers it was possible to trace a clear division between such as were able or forced to reside in Dawson (mine owners and saloon owners—the same man is often both) and the miners at work on the creeks, the latter always suspecting the former of getting official knowledge of new finds earlier than themselves, and ready to make a grievance of a mere suspicion.

2. The chechakos or new-comers of this year, all of course chagrined to find that the officials and old-timers had not reserved a claim for each of their 20,000 on the best part of Eldorado or Dog Head Butte, except for this fact, easy to distinguish—

(a.) American miners, excellent fellows and good miners, used to laws of their own, and not always liking to have to obey the Canadian laws, complaining for some time because "they had not been told that the Klondike was mostly staked out," but after a time settling down to work, pushing further afield and doing well;

(b.) British Columbians, also accustomed to laws of their own, convinced that the Yukon ought to figure as part of British Columbia, the mining province of the Dominion; yet I never heard one of them suggest that Yukon claims (250 feet) should be reduced to the length of British Columbian claims (100 feet);

(c.) Genuine miners, of whatever nationality, in considerable numbers with genuine grievances, partly remediable, partly not;

(d.) A crowd of professional men and traders and "superior persons," all wanting claims, and expecting from the officials special facilities for acquiring claims. Some of them had been forbidden to practise law or medicine without Canadian diplomas. Many were adepts at "skinning" a new country, and hated to find that concessions from Ottawa barred their way in their quest for timber, firewood, hay, and rights of various kinds, as for telephones, ferries, &c.

(e.) Scum of all classes and trades and nations, ready to do or say anything for dollars, and for the privilege to loaf at Dawson, especially dangerous to the newspaper correspondent, whom they frequently beguiled with their loud-voiced complaint that there was nothing left for the "free miner," and that the officials kept all for themselves, &c., &c., "that the poor men had no chance of getting his letter or his record of a claim," &c., &c.

A perusal of the above will show how plentiful a crop of grievances could be collected by a correspondent with an appetite for the garbage of a mining camp, and without that power of perspective which is so necessary and yet so difficult to exercise in hurried letter-writing. I think that every correspondent who wrote upon "Yukon grievances" and "Yukon scandals" would probably write differently if he were asked to write again on the same subject. For it is beyond question that "grievances" and "scandals" were made on the outside to assume an importance which they never possessed in the Klondike itself. If I review the facts of the situation briefly, it is because I think such a review will be useful for the future; only time and wise

deliberation are needed utterly to do away with the genuine grievances of the Klondike.

These are what he says are genuine grievances.

1. Unequal taxation (the miner pays nearly all the taxes).—He was easiest to tax; money was wanted; for the rest of Canada would not consent to the Yukon's Bill, so he was taxed—the trader escapes in most cases.

2. Want of publicity of claim records (every miner should be able to see what claims have been recorded in the district, and that with as little delay as possible).

3. Want of surveyors (the miner has to wait too long to have his claim surveyed—it is questionable whether the miner ought to have to pay the surveyor his fee, in case of a dispute about boundaries, or whether the recording fee ought not to carry with it the right to an accurate survey free of charge).

The hon. member for York has a clear opinion on that subject.

4. Certain obvious defects in the mining laws (see under "Mining Laws").

All these are matters of policy to be worked up when we have a little better knowledge of the country.

5. Want of roads (see under "The Law of Representation").

6. Want of adequate mail service and service delivery of mail (it is impossible to provide fully for such a vast crowd, but the post office was needlessly slow).

7. Want of recording officials on every creek (this would keep the crowd scattered and forestall the genuine grievance of the stakers who had to trudge so many miles to Dawson from every part of the Klondike to record claims).

This is a formidable list of grievances, and it has been duly insisted upon, and of course exaggerated by most critics. A glance at the list reveals the need of time and of a whole army of trained officials, with an unlimited purse, to do away with these grievances. As yet there has been no time, the rush of adventurers to the north passed the calculations of all those most likely to know; nobody believed that a crowd of 25,000 would make its way to the Yukon by mid-June of 1898; all the season there has been a steady influx of new officials; but it would be idle to suppose that laws or officials can be satisfactory for some time. Canada in general is only just beginning to mine, and she certainly has no trained body of mining officials from which she could have sent a complete and efficient staff to regulate in one season a huge placer mining camp like the Klondike. It is the rapid growth of the camp (from upwards of 5,000 souls in 1897 to upwards of 30,000 in 1898) that passes belief and creates suddenly a volume of business in Dawson City hard for any officials to cope with, especially for such as have to learn their business, to some extent as they go on. Canada as yet has no separate department of mines. She needs a department of mines, in close touch with the Geological Survey Department. The weak spot in the early history of the Klondike is the want at Ottawa of accurate information derived from competent geologists; but I ought, at the same time, to add that Dawson camp is not yet two years old to the outside world. Failing in accurate knowledge of the richness of the Klondike deposits, all Government action at Ottawa has been speculative and hampered with the fear that other provinces of Canada might be com-

pelled to and might not care to pay the bill for the development of the Yukon. This season two of the best Canadian geologists were sent to inspect the Klondike, and their reports will furnish new and reliable data for future action of the Government. In the above list of Yukon grievances, two stand out, not as being more important than the rest, but as being easier to remedy quickly.

1. Difficulty of recording claims and of getting to know what claims have been recorded.

2. Difficulty connected with the distribution of the mail.

I just interpolate here that I am satisfied, from my information from Dawson City, that both these difficulties have now been remedied and that there is no grievance in regard to either of them.

These same difficulties must always occur in new placer camps in intensity proportionate to the size of the camp, but the Dawson authorities showed singular inability to improve the record office and the post office. At best they were both very slow indeed, and the miner who consented to accommodate himself to their methods had to put up with great inconvenience and great loss of time. It is not too much to say that the inefficiency of these two offices was to blame for the loud talk on the outside as well as in the Klondike about "official corruption."

Now, will the House mark this:

Such talk is puerile where the character of men like Major Walsh and Mr. Thos. Fawcett is in question. There is not a man living who dare openly suggest that either of them was corrupt. At the same time, undoubted evils went long unreformed at the record office, and the Yukon miner, seeing no sufficient reason for continued inefficiency, began to suspect and even whisper "corruption," which he could never prove, to me at any rate, either in the Klondike or, later on, at Ottawa. Personally I saw but little that cannot very easily be made smooth by a telegraph wire to Ottawa, and a few changes in the mining law; the telegraph wire will do much more for the Klondike than will the incorporation of Dawson City, good though that also may be in due time. For all business purposes the Yukon remains still quite cut off from the central Government at Ottawa, in harmful isolation so far as movement of capital into it is desired. The building of the telegraph line is the first and easiest step by which the Government can foster the mining interests of a country that will amply repay it for all its care.

That is the best and most impartial view of the situation I can give to the House. It is written by a man who knows the ground, who is making a scientific report for the "Mining Journal" and making it under this knowledge—and this should be marked—that if in any respect the accuracy of his report can be impeached, his reputation is gone. Therefore, the House may place absolute confidence in his statement. It is not all favourable, but it shows that exactly what I have said is true. There had been grievances, but they could not be avoided or removed earlier, because it was necessary to have skilled men to deal with the matter, and we could not get them at once. We have sent men in there and we are getting things into shape as fast as we can.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I have detained the House so long, but I have a few words to say in conclusion. Let me point out that the work of the Government in connection with the Klondike district commenced in 1897. Practically our work commenced there when our officials got in. The first of them got in about February, 1898. Major Walsh was the only man who had any real authority to do anything, and he got in there on the 21st of May last. All that has happened in regard to which there has been any discussion has practically taken place since the ice went out of the Yukon River last spring, about ten months ago. What have we done in that time? We have taken over a country flooded by men of the most diverse character from all over the western country and the Pacific slope. It has been said that that country has been a by-word for official corruption. They forget to say that country has been a by-word with every man who has ever been in a mining camp for the perfect preservation of law and order under the most trying difficulties. There has been no crime unpunished, there has been no disorder, there has been no rioting. A New York lady who had been there, calling in my office not long since, told me that she felt safer in her tent on the trail any where in the Yukon than she did in her residence in the city of New York.

Sir, is that nothing to say on behalf of the men who have done this work? I think that it is something to the credit of the Dominion of Canada, and to the men who have gone through the arduous labour which they were called upon to do. Our men have gone there, they have struggled hard, they are struggling hard now with the initial difficulties of overcoming all these things which have to be overcome, of learning those matters which have to be learned and properly studied out in order that they may be able to deal with the peculiar circumstances of a peculiar situation. We have established a government there, we have put a local government in operation, of a bureaucratic character, it is true, but of that character because it is the only kind of government applicable to that country until we know more about it, and the population is more settled. That government is at work. I have read you a list of the operations of the Council, showing that they are going into all the details of administration, that they are trying to take care of the people and meet their wants, and administer the affairs of that district in a business-like and a proper way. The affairs of government are on a proper footing. Building accommodation has been found for our

police force. From Lake Bennett to Dawson City a man can now go over the ice without spending a night out of doors, a great difference between this and last year. When Major Walsh and myself were at Lake Bennett there was not a single post between that point and Dawson City. But at present there is a line of posts stretching through the whole district, under Canadian and British authority, so that there is no possibility of any man's life or property being in danger. Now, what have we today? We have permanent public buildings that could not have been expected to be put up last year. There is regular transportation by which proper materials for buildings can be carried in. We have roads to build, and some stretches have been built already of the most immediate necessity. We could not take an appropriation last year for the reason that we did not have information which would enable us to decide where the roads ought to be built. If we had had the money last year we would not have spent it, because we did not know exactly where the roads ought to be made, and for fear of wasting the money we should not have undertaken to expend any. We propose to ask Parliament this year for an appropriation to build a telegraph line; we propose to ask for an appropriation for a road; and I believe that seven or eight months from today, when next session closes, the Yukon district will be under a regular and proper administration of law such as will satisfy the requirements of the people of the district, and such as would serve for any province in the Dominion of Canada. One word more. I ought not to sit down without referring to the fact that throughout the speech of the hon. gentleman there has been a continuous trend of suggestions that there was some improper or corrupt connection between myself or some member or members of the Government with the Klondike district. I want to say that I challenge the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, I challenge the members of his party in this House, I challenge the members of his party outside this House, I challenge the press of his party, to produce their private detectives, to come here upon their responsibility and press their charge; I challenge the member for Pictou or any man in this House, to lay upon the Table of the House the charges that he has to make, and declare his ability to substantiate them by evidence, and he will get his investigation, and I will be able to convince the hon. gentleman who makes that charge that discretion on his part would have been the better part of valour.

